

This booking photo taken Nov. 23, 2010, and provided by the Spartanburg County jail, shows Michael Stephen Bowden of Woodruff, S.C. Bowden, 78, a former New York City policeman, was arrested earlier this month after he told a nurse at a Veterans Affairs clinic in Spartanburg he was thinking about killing President Barack Obama.

(AP Photo/Spartanburg County Detention Center)

SC man accused of threatening to shoot president

By MEG KINNARD,
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A 78-year-old South Carolina man with more than a dozen weapons in his home has been arrested after federal authorities say he told a nurse he wanted to kill President Barack Obama.

But the man's son said Friday his father only spoke out as a cry for help for mental instability.

Michael Stephen Bowden was being held at the Spartanburg County jail. Bowden was arrested Nov. 18 after he told a nurse at a Veterans Affairs clinic in Spartanburg he was thinking of killing the president, according to a sworn statement by a U.S. Secret Service agent.

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FILE - In this Tuesday, June 22, 2010 file photo, Gen. James Amos, Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corp, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on military suicides.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

Defiant N. Korea fires artillery warning shots

FOSTER KLUG
LEE JIN-MAN

Associated Press

YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP) — A defiant flash of North Korean artillery within sight of the island that it attacked this week sent a warning signal to Seoul and Washington: The North is not backing down.

The apparent military drill Friday came as the top U.S. commander in South Korea toured Yeonpyeong island to survey the wreckage from the rain of artillery three days earlier. As a U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier headed toward the Yellow Sea for exercises next week with South Korea, the North warned that the joint maneuvers will push the Korean peninsula to the "brink of war."

South Korea's government, meanwhile, struggled to recoup from the surprise attacks that killed four people, including two civilians, and forced its beleaguered defense minister to resign Thursday.

President Lee Myung-bak on Friday named a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the post.

Tensions have soared between the Koreas since the North's strike Tuesday destroyed large parts of Yeonpyeong in a major escalation of their sporadic skirmishes along the disputed sea border.

The attack — eight months after a torpedo sank a South Korean warship, killing 46 sailors — has laid bare Seoul's weaknesses in defense 60 years after the Korean War. Lee has ordered reinforcements for the 4,000 troops on Yeonpyeong and four

Marine pushback to permitting openly gay military

By JULIE WATSON,
Associated Press

OCEANSIDE, Calif. — They are the few, the proud and perhaps the military's biggest opponents of lifting the ban on openly gay troops. Most of those serving in America's armed forces have no strong objections to repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" law, according to a Pentagon survey of 400,000 active duty and reservists that is scheduled for release Tuesday.

But the survey found resistance to repealing the ban strongest among the Marines, according to the Washington Post. It's an attitude apparently shared by their top leader, Commandant Gen. James Amos, who has said that the government should not lift the ban in wartime.

The Senate is supposed to consider repeal during its lame duck session in December, with many legislators favoring changing the law to allow gays to serve openly. A few staunchly oppose it, however, and both sides are expected to cite the survey in arguing whether to move forward with repeal.

The Corps is the youngest, smallest and arguably the most tight-knit of the enlisted forces, with many of its roughly 200,000 members hailing from small towns and rural areas in the South

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An anti-North Korea protester threatens police trying to extinguish burning icons of North Korea during a demonstration, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010, in Seoul, South Korea. Fresh artillery shots were heard Friday on the tense South Korean island of Yeonpyeong, three days after it was devastated by a North Korean attack and hours after Pyongyang warned that the peninsula was on the brink of war.

Associated Press

other Yellow Sea islands, as well as top-level weaponry and upgraded rules of engagement.

The heightened animosity between the Koreas comes as the North undergoes a delicate transition of power from leader Kim Jong Il to his young, inexperienced son Kim Jong Un, who is in his late 20s and is expected to eventually succeed his ailing father.

Washington and Seoul have pressed China to use its influence on Pyongyang to ease tensions amid worries of all-out war.

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US Haitians put hope in prayer, not the ballot box



A mural on the wall of the cultural center in the Little Haiti quarter of Miami, Florida, on November 24. Many Haitians in Miami believe that only God and not presidential elections, can help the country in his tragedies.

Juan Castro Olivera

MIAMI – A preacher urged people in Miami's "Little Haiti" to pray for their homeland, claiming only divine intervention, not voting in Sunday's elections, could solve their country's myriad problems.

He found fertile ground as he issued loud proclamations in creole, the lingua franca in an enclave in northern Miami which, with 75,000, is home to the largest concentration of Haitian emigrants anywhere in the world.

"We don't need elections, we need God in Haiti," said a woman named Giselle, who runs a shop selling herbs, religious images, skulls and a variety of voodoo artifacts.

Haiti's diaspora held out little hope for change in a country that has defied numerous international attempts to end a cruel cycle of political instability, economic stagnation, and natural disaster.

"I don't think the elections can change anything in Haiti," said 25-year-old

Joseph Millford as he dropped off his son at the Notre Dame d'Haiti daycare center. "We need a real leader, someone with good heart."

The next-door church of the same name played a pivotal role in the local community in the days after January's calamitous earthquake: locals flocked there searching for news of events or loved-ones back home.

The estimated 300,000-strong Haitian community in Florida is concerned with rebuilding after the quake -- which killed 250,000 people -- and how to cope with a deadly cholera epidemic, but not so much the politicking.

"People have to pray for the end of misfortunes in our country," said Giselle, as smoke spewed from a pot where worshipers burned incense, stones and herbs.

Voodoo remains an official state religion in Haiti. It is estimated that more than half the population practices elements of it, although it is often followed alongside Catholicism in a rare mixing of the faiths.

More than four million Haitians are eligible to vote in Sunday's vote to find a successor to President Rene Preval and elect 11 of the country's 30 senators

and all 99 parliamentary deputies.

"They should have postponed the election and put all the forces to control cholera," said George Mphines, who works at a store that sells phone cards for Miami locals to call Haiti.

Haitian officials have ignored pleas to delay the vote and health experts say holding the polls will have little effect on the spread of cholera, which has claimed more than 1,600 lives in little over a month.

Michel Leonor, who was selling palm tree hats made in Haiti, was more interested in finding customers than in Haitian politics.

"They are hand made, natural, they don't transmit cholera," he said, smiling.

Millford was disappointed that ex-Fugees frontman Wyclef Jean -- an international pop star who was born in Haiti but now lives in Miami -- was ruled ineligible to run.

"Wyclef would have been good for the country," he said. Millford returned in January after the quake to help relatives. "To me, it's like a dream thinking that one day I'll go and see that everything has changed and the country is getting better," he said. □



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US-Mexico project IDs border-crossing victims

By NAFEESA SYEED,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lorenia Ton visits the morgues of southern Arizona searching for clues among the unclaimed bodies and belongings of people who tried to cross the desert.

Sometimes it's a phone number written inside pantlegs, or a piece of paper sewn into a backpack. Other times there are family photos, images of saints, or love letters.

"Sometimes we cannot find anything," says Ton, whose job at the Mexican consulate in Tucson involves helping identify the remains and return them to Mexico.

To confirm the IDs, the consulate sends DNA samples to Bode Technology Group Inc., a private lab in Lorton, Va., outside Washington, as part of a project that has brought closure to dozens of families and countless relatives on both sides of the dangerous border.

During one trip in April, Ton (pronounced TOHN) came across a body recently discovered by a hunter. Found with the dead man were his tennis shoes, a belt, a couple of dollars and pesos, a wallet, a baseball cap and voter identification card. Ton had a name: Agustin Gutierrez Ortiz, 34.

Jesus Gutierrez Ortiz, 37, who lives in Bradley Beach, N.J., described his brother as a hardworking father of two who left their hardscrabble town of La Natividad in the state of Oaxaca to help his family. He reported the younger Gutierrez Ortiz missing to Mexican authorities in June 2009, and Bode confirmed the worst a year later.

"I always asked God that he be

alive, but in my heart I felt that he was dead because he was in the desert," Gutierrez Ortiz says in Spanish. "If I could have flown into the desert ... to look for him I would have." The lab has made at least 47 positive identifications since the program began a couple of years ago.

Many other cases are pending as the number of people who try to cross the border illegally has grown.

The number of deaths along the border hit a peak of 492 in 2005 and had been declining, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. But last year, the agency recorded 422 deaths, up from 390 the previous year. Most deaths are attributed to the heat.

As of Aug. 31, the most recent figures available, there had been 332 deaths this year.

But those numbers only tally the deaths that border patrol officers come across. That doesn't include countless other bodies found by local law enforcement agencies, immigrant rights organizations, ranchers and other passers-by.

The bodies that Bode receives mainly come from Arizona. In that state, deaths of illegal immigrants rose over the summer, despite many who thought the state's new law cracking down on immigration would send people elsewhere along the border.

The remains are found along known routes used by migrants. Some remains have been in the desert a year or more, leaving the bodies mummified or mere bones. Others are more recent.

Back in Mexico, families enter their loved ones into a vast missing persons database, which includes details such

as people's clothes, dental records and whether they had tattoos.

If officials find a name with the bodies, they run it through the database. If the body is still recognizable, Ton sends a photo to the family. If the body is not too decomposed, officials can run the fingerprints with U.S. border authorities and see whether that person had been deported before.

Based on those leads, the consulate makes presumptive identifications. It's Ton's job to contact the relatives.

"The first thing is they start crying, sometimes they scream, sometimes they hang up on me," she says. "I have to try again." □



Lorenia Ton-Quevedo is backdropped by the names of deceased migrants Friday, Oct. 16, 2010 at the Mexican Consulates office in Tucson, Ariz. Ton-Quevedo visits morgues in the area to go through the personal effects of migrants whose remains are discovered in the desert in order to identify them and get them returned to their families.

(AP Photo/Matt York)



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12 stitches for Obama after errant elbow in hoops

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama needed 12 stitches in his lip after taking an errant elbow during a pickup basketball game Friday with a group of family and friends visiting for the Thanksgiving holiday, the White House said.

Press secretary Robert Gibbs said in a statement that Obama was inadvertently struck by an elbow. The elbow's owner wasn't identified.

Obama received the stitches under local anesthesia in the doctor's office on the ground floor White House after he returned home.

The president had traveled to nearby Fort McNair to indulge in one of his favorite athletic pursuits, basketball. It was a five-on-five contest involving family and friends and including Reggie Love, Obama's personal assistant who played at Duke University.

Obama emerged from the building after about 90



President Barack Obama, with an ice pack over his mouth, looks out the second floor window of the White House during the arrival of the official White House Christmas tree, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010 in Washington.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

minutes of play, wearing short-sleeve T-shirt and gym pants, and was seen dabbing at his mouth with what appeared to be a wad of gauze. A few hours later, reporters who had gathered on the White House driveway for the arrival of the Christmas Tree saw the president in an upstairs

window, pressing something white against his mouth.

"After being inadvertently hit with an opposing player's elbow in the lip while playing basketball with friends and family, the president received 12 stitches today administered by the White House Medical Unit," Gibbs said. □

PRESIDENT THREAT

Continued from Front Page

During a checkup at the clinic Nov. 16, a nurse asked Bowden if he ever thought about killing himself. According to the affidavit, Bowden told the nurse, "Yes, I would like to shoot the president, then myself."

Bowden repeated those words to another nurse, adding that he wanted to kill Obama "because he is not doing enough to help African Americans."

The next day, federal agents searched the home that Bowden, who is white, shares with his wife and adult son, finding three semiautomatic handguns and a semiautomatic rifle under Bowden's bed. Agents also found 13 other guns throughout the home, including a loaded shotgun near the front door.

When asked about his comments to the nurses, Bowden acknowledged he made them and also gave agents a sworn, written statement, saying "if I had the opportunity to put Obama against the wall and shoot him, I would."

Bowden also exhibited suicidal tendencies during a screening in April, according to the statement.

But Bowden's son, reached at the family's home Friday, said his father only told the nurse about the threats as a way to get attention after his April suicidal screening had gone unnoticed.

"They did nothing for him," said Kerry Bowden, 47, adding that medication his father has taken since a heart attack in the 1970s could be the source of his irrationality. "I think he was afraid something was going to happen, so he acted out and made the statements he said to get the medical treatment. ... They dropped the ball."

There was no answer at the clinic Bowden's father visited, and a Veterans Affairs official did not immediately return a message.

Kerry Bowden, who said that he works as a defense contractor training law enforcement officials, said that all but two of the guns recovered from the home belong to him.

"This should never have been a law enforcement issue," Bowden said. "He's going to miss his birthday. He missed Thanksgiving. He's going to miss Christmas, all because these nurses were either incompetent, not trained or they just didn't care."

After four years in the U.S. Navy, Kerry Bowden said his father served with the New York City police and fire departments for more than 15 years before retiring to South Carolina following a heart attack in 1975. Neither department on Friday said they could find records showing that Bowden had ever worked there.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Kevin McDonald has ordered that Bowden be held without bond until a mental evaluation had been completed. An attorney for Bowden did not immediately respond to a message Friday. □

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Lesbian cadet who quit seeks return to West Point

By JOHN SEEWER,
Associated Press

FINDLAY, Ohio — Katherine Miller got pretty good at hiding her sexuality in high school, brushing off questions about her weekend plans and referring to her girlfriend, Kristin, as “Kris.”

She figured she could pull it off at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, too. After all, “don’t ask, don’t tell” sounded a lot like how she had gotten through her teen years.

But something changed when she arrived at West Point two years ago. She felt the sting of guilt with every lie that violated the academy’s honor code. Then, near the end of her first year, she found herself in a classroom discussion about gays in the military, listening to friends say gays disgusted them.

“I couldn’t work up the courage to foster an argument against what they were saying for fear of being targeted as

a gay myself,” Miller told The Associated Press in an interview this week. “I had to be silent. That’s not what I wanted to become.”

What she has become is an unlikely activist for repealing the ban on gays serving openly in the military. She resigned from the academy in August and within days was one of the most prominent faces of the debate. Yet her greatest hope now is that she can return to the place she just left.

For that to happen, President Barack Obama must make good on his promise to gay rights groups that he would push to repeal the 1993 law by the end of the year. The U.S. House already has signed off on the idea, and the Senate is preparing to debate it in the coming weeks.

The Defense Department on Tuesday will release a report that will help shape what Congress decides. The study has examined whether lifting the ban can be done without

disrupting the armed services and current war efforts and includes a survey of about 400,000 troops.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff both have said they would rather see Congress change the law than have it struck down by the courts and risk losing control of how the changes would be put in place.

Adm. Mike Mullen told ABC’s “This Week” this month that asking people to lie about themselves goes against the integrity of the armed forces. Miller, 21, grew up in rural northwest Ohio, where she was captain of her high school softball team and voted most likely to become president.

She started dreaming of going to West Point around the time she turned 16 — more than a year before she came to accept that she was gay. Even after that, the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy was no more than a passing concern.



In this Nov. 24, 2010 photo, Katherine Miller, a former cadet at the U.S. Military Academy who quit over the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy, poses for a photo in her hometown of Findlay, Ohio. Miller got pretty good at hiding her sexuality in high school, brushing off questions about her weekend plans and referring to her girlfriend, Kristin, as ‘Kris.’ She figured she could pull it off at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, too. After all, ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ sounded a lot like how she had gotten through her teen years.

(AP Photo/John Seewer)

She wanted to be a leader at the academy, someone with honor. She excelled, ranking near the top of her class of more than 1,100 cadets going into their third year. But Miller also was hiding in fear. “I realized that I

wasn’t becoming the leader of character that I wanted to be,” she said. Other gay cadets in her small circle of friends tried to persuade her to stick it out. Conforming, after all, is a tenet taught in the military. □

MARINE PUSHBACK

Continued from Front Page

Marines are unabashed about distinguishing themselves from the rest of the military, with a warrior ethos and a religious zeal for their branch of service that they liken to a brotherhood.

“We’ve never changed our motto. We’ve never changed our pitch to new recruits. We have hardly changed our formal uniforms in 235 years,” said Marine Reserve Lt. Col. Paul Hackett, 48, who has been in the Corps for 25 years. “We are a religion unto ourselves, and we pride ourselves in that.”

The Marine Corps traces its roots to an 18th century Philadelphia bar, Tun Tavern, where, according to legend, the first Colonial Marines were recruited in 1775 — setting the tone for troops who still boast they are the toughest, most aggressive fighters in the military.

Over the centuries they have remained faithful to their martial traditions, even in the face of sweeping societal change.

The Marines Corps was among the last in the military to open its doors to women, forming the first female Corps in 1943, according to the Women’s Memorial in Washington D.C.

But some things haven’t changed. Marine recruiting commercials are still full of macho swagger that dare people to become one of “The Few. The Proud. The Marines.”

Much has been said about the Marine “mystique,” the almost cult-like bonds developed among a force known historically to have higher casualty rates because it is considered the “tip of the spear,” or the first to respond to bloody conflicts. Marine officers say that kind of unit “cohesion” — fostered through close living quarters — can literally mean the difference between life and death when headed

into battle.

Many Marines say they aren’t bothered by the notion of serving with openly gay men and women. Gary Solis, a Marine combat veteran who teaches the laws of war at Georgetown University Law Center, says others have the misconception that openly gay Marines will not be as aggressive or “gung-ho” as their comrades in arms.

“Of course, we know none of that’s true about homosexuals,” Solis added. “There have always been homosexuals in the Marine Corps, but when you acknowledge it openly, that’s a different thing. There are many Marines, particularly the older, more senior Marines, who don’t want to see that image diluted.”

That image is flaunted here in Oceanside, a coastal community bordering Camp Pendleton, where souped-up pick up trucks with Marine Corps stickers in the back windows rumble down the main street flanked by towering Palms.

The downtown is dotted with barber shops adorned with American flags advertising “military-style” cuts and dry cleaners filled with racks of freshly pressed uniforms.

Marines say they know there are gay troops in the Corps but they prefer that remain an unspoken fact on the battlefield.

Iraq veteran Miguel Jimenez, 37, a staff sergeant who left the Marine Corps in 2008, said he would have been uncomfortable having an openly gay man in the Marine unit he led. His Marines often spent the night in their armored vehicle, he said, changing their clothes and sleeping within inches of each other.

“I don’t like that idea” of lifting the ban, said Jimenez, sitting in his truck with his pit bull, Angel, near Oceanside’s Surf Museum and GI

Joe’s military apparel shop. “I think there would be alienation, maybe open hostility toward that guy.” Sgt. David Trentham said allowing gays to serve openly could become a distraction for units engaged in combat.

“I just think it would complicate things,” said Trentham, 24, of Sevierville, Tenn. “If you have two homosexuals in a unit, they could have a relationship and if they broke it off, is that going to cause the mission to fail because they are having problems?”

Marine Corps Commandant Amos has expressed concern that the change could disrupt the cohesion of combat units where troops must put their lives in each other’s hands.

“There is nothing more intimate than combat and I want to make that point crystal clear,” Amos told reporters in San Diego recently. “There is nothing more intimate than young men and young women, and when you’re talking infantry, we’re talking our young men laying out, sleeping alongside of one another, and sharing death and fear and the loss of their brothers. So I don’t know what the effect of that would be on unit cohesion.”

Amos also pointed out that the Marine Corps has a policy of two Marines per room on base, unlike other military branches.

Will Rodriguez-Kennedy, a Marine corporal who was discharged in 2008 under the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law, said the Corps’ demanding standards and the strong sense of brotherhood are what prompted him to join in the first place.

“My calling has always been service, and I wanted to go into the best of the branches, the one that showed the most pride, the most challenge,” he said, adding that he wants to rejoin if and when the ban is lifted. □

All-night shop-a-thon: Black Friday draws crowds



A traffic jam is negotiated in the aisles of Toys R Us, in San Rafael Calif., Thursday Nov. 25, 2010 which was crowded with Black Friday shoppers.

(AP Photo/Mike Adaskaveg)

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO,
AP Retail Writer

Bargain shoppers, braving rain or frigid weather, crowded the nation's stores in the wee hours of the night to get their hands on deals from TVs to toys on Black Friday. Early signs pointed to bigger crowds at many stores including Best Buy, Sears, and Toys R Us for the traditional start to the holiday shopping season.

In an encouraging sign for retailers and for the economy, more shoppers appeared to be buying for themselves than last

year, when such indulgences were limited. Lengthened hours that pushed some store openings into Thanksgiving also appeared to pay off.

Toys R Us, which drew in shoppers with 50 percent discounts on such toys as Buzz Lightyear and Barbies, was counting on getting an extra boost by opening 24 hours straight, starting at 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving.

Brian Dunn, CEO of Best Buy Co., which started its holiday TV ads 11 days earlier this year than last year, reported customer counts

were showing high single-digit percentage increase Friday morning compared last year. He said shoppers were throwing in items like Blu-ray players to go with early morning bargains that started at 5 a.m.

"Traffic was fast and furious. We started earlier and we have more TV (commercials). I think both of these things helped," Dunn said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I do think there will be more self-gifting this year."

Still, analysts monitoring stores said many people were paying with cash and were focused, doing plenty of research before venturing out. "Where there are bargains, there are people looking to gobble them up," said Marshal Cohen, chief analyst for market research firm NPD. "The consumer is still very calculated."

The earlier hours were an enticement to shoppers like Jessica Marshburn, who was armed with a Rockstar energy drink and an advertising insert from a newspaper.

"It's easier this year. I just stayed up," said Marshburn, who was at Washington Square mall in Tigard, Ore., for its midnight opening. Her game plan? Kohl's, Target, and Best Buy, as they opened. She and her friend Cristy Doering were shopping for

themselves while keeping their eyes open for deals that might make good gifts.

At the Walmart store in Columbia, Md., customers came in waves, with a big rush at midnight when toys and clothing went on sale and then another surge just before cut-rate electronics were hauled out at 5 a.m. Parking spots were in short supply and shopping carts were even more scarce, as people stalked the exits waiting for discarded ones.

The chain averted the dangers of years past by keeping its doors open all night to head off potential stampedes. Shoppers instead lined up for tickets entitling them to heavily discounted TVs and computers and then camped out in cordoned-off aisles. While the system kept things orderly, some shoppers didn't appreciate it.

Kelly Miller was looking to do some marathon gift shopping, but ended up buying just a few toys, including a \$4 Candyland game.

"I might have picked up more," she said, "if I could have found what I wanted without stepping on people lying on the floor. I got fed up."

Retail analyst Cohen, who had a team of consultants monitoring 11 regions, estimated that 15 percent of purchases so far on Friday were items for the shoppers themselves, up from about 9 percent last year on the same day. On Black Friday 2008, he estimated it dropped to about 5 percent. In good economic times, such purchases run about 26 percent, Cohen said. Kevin Jones, a Black Friday first-timer, was at Walmart in Columbia, Md., to buy a 42-inch Emerson LCD television for \$398 for his new apartment.

"This year, I'm taking care of me first. I deserve a little gift," he said.

The fierce battle for shoppers' wallets promises savings for those willing and able to buy amid an economy that's still worrying many.

The strong Black Friday builds on retailers' momentum after a solid start to November. Shoppers who can afford it are buying more nonessentials, like jewelry and luxury goods. Still, nearly 15 million are unemployed, and concerns about job security cloud consumer confidence. Spending may be picking up but has not returned to pre-recession levels.

"It's a dogfight between retail companies," said Chris Donnelly, a senior executive in consulting group Accenture's retail practice. "This year is the first time that there's a little more money in the marketplace so they're being more aggressive about getting the last dollar. At the end of the day, they're going to outweigh people who are pulling back."

Many stores pushed more exclusive deals online Thursday in a bid to rope in shoppers before Black Friday. It apparently worked. According to IBM's Coremetrics, online sales soared 33 percent on the holiday compared with Thanksgiving 2009. The average order was \$182.74, up from \$159.81 on last year's Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving weekend is huge for retailers. In recent years, Black Friday — called that because the surge of shoppers could take retailers into profitability, or "the black," for the year — has been the busiest shopping day of the year, according to data from research firm ShopperTrak. □

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Duval-Leroy champagne sparkled the afternoon away

ORANJESTAD - Two elegant champagnes of the house of Duval-Leroy in the Champagne region, France, played starring roles last Tuesday afternoon at lovely Barefoot Restaurant at Surfside Beach. The Brut and the Brut Rosé enticed and seduced the twenty-five guests: all restaurant managers who know their wines. No one could resist the delicate bubbles and harmonious bouquets of both excellent wines, which were introduced by French Mr. Michel Brismontier, who travels the world promoting his favorite beverage. Michel was guest of honor at the invitational cocktail reception at Barefoot Restaurant at Surfside Beach, hosted by Govert van der Hout

A winter's evening at CILO's

Enjoy a trip from Oranjestad to Tirol, Austria



ORANJESTAD - A fun re-enactment of a winter's evening will be taking place at CILO City Lounge, the cool, marina-view restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace. The idea is that guests will imagine themselves to be in Tirol, Germany, in the midst of winter. Snowflakes will be clinging to the window sills, the gluhwein will be served piping hot and waldhorns will sound far, far away from the snow-clad mountains. The Tiroler evening is held on Saturday, November 27.

Tirol is the theme of the evening; it lies West of Austria and the state is split into two parts. North Tirol borders Bavaria (Germany) in the North, Italy and Switzerland in the South and Salzburg in the East. The highest mountain in the state is the Grossglockner; its capital is Innsbruck. The area offers great skiing and snowboarding and it boasts famous ski resorts like Kitzbehel and St. Anton.

The waiting staff of CILO will be decked out in Tiroler outfits, if possible, ensuring that guests will be enjoying the wintry atmosphere among fir and pine trees. Chef Sander will come up with a delicious, Tiroler menu and Mirugia and Kevin are singing their awesome songs. Expect some evergreens! □



of the Arion Wine Company, the proud new representative of Duval-Leroy champagnes. At the event, charming Monsieur Brismontier explained the ins and outs of his fantastic champagne to the guests.

"Our Brut is very versatile, light yet distinct; it is easy to drink and to sell," he said. "One can sell it by the glass as well as by the half bottle or the bottle, as an aperitif, at dinner or even at dessert, the latest trend in champagne drinking." The rosé, with its magical salmon color, made a great impression as well.

Both wines have made the top 100 classification of the Wine Spectator; the Brut was even the only champagne recognized in 2008; the rosé scored a formidable 89 points.

Duval-Leroy has 200 hectares of vineyards, generating 5 million bottles per year. The house belongs to the top 15 companies in the Champagne and it is big enough to supply the world: its champagnes can be found in 50 countries. Around 40 percent of its bottles finds its way to fine restaurants domestically in France; the other 60 percent is sold abroad, for instance in the business class and first class of various airlines.

At Barefoot Restaurant the Duval-Leroy Brut was sampled first: big, full-bodied, featuring graphite, toast, lemon and nut



aromas and flavors. It is well-balanced, with an assertive finish. The rosé was like a treasure chest filled with wild cherries, figs and a hint of ginger and geraniums. To enhance the pleasurable experience of drinking these fine wines, a number of super hors d'oeuvres were served, like grouper with a pinch of curry, scallops with a drop of lemon, tomato and mozzarella, carpaccio on toast, tuna tartar on toast and ham and melon.

Barefoot Restaurant, with its great subtitle 'fine dining on flip flops' is a wonderful restaurant located right on the water's edge at Surfside Beach. The open-air restaurant of owners Luc and Gerko opened its doors last September; it has been a hit from the word go. We can't imagine anything better than the combination of having dinner at Barefoot Restaurant with a glass of Duval-Leroy raised in a toast to love, life and happiness. So here goes: prosit! □



For Jennifer and Danny Honan, a renewal of vows is a family affair



ORANJESTAD - "Ten years of being truly happily married seems to be an accomplishment these days," explained Danny Honan as to why he and wife Jennifer decided to stage a renewal of vows while on Aruba for Thanksgiving. "Jennifer

and I are still truly in love and being able to do this with our daughters Kayla and Makenzie to see it, makes it absolutely perfect."

The Linden, New Jersey couple are big fans of Aruba, as are Jennifer's parents, Ted



and Joann Chesney, who own timesharing at the Aruba Beach Club and introduced the "bride and groom" to the island before they had married.

Jennifer and Danny returned when she was pregnant with Kayla, and are back again to share this special moment with several aunts, uncles

and cousins who all spend Thanksgiving on Aruba every year at the ABC.

Diane Keijzer performed the ceremony; tears of joy and gratitude were streaming down Danny's cheeks throughout. "When I saw all my girls looking so beautiful in white, well, that was it for me, I lost

it completely," he confessed when the ceremony was over. His was so overcome with emotion that after Jennifer had recited her vows of love and appreciation for ten wonderful years together, he could do little more than choke out the word "Ditto."

Diane ended the poignant ceremony with a few charming island rituals.

Seashells were distributed to all the guests and the wedding party for them to toss into the sea in a prayer to the powers that be for marital harmony; she then presented Jennifer and Danny with a small woven bag containing a few shells from the beach where they were wed and an Aruban square .50 cent piece. "Add to this the cork from the bottle of champagne you open to toast your marriage," she advised them, "and keep it in your favorite room in the house to bless your union. I have been married 36 years and I still have mine."

The signing of the marriage certificate was also a family affair, as Kayla, 8, and Makenzie, 4, were the official witnesses to this happy event. This is the first Thanksgiving the Honans are sharing on Aruba with the rest of their family, who come each year for the holiday, and now they claim particularly special feeling for the island. "Despite the clouds and the brief shower that delayed the ceremony, it could not have been more perfect." □

Honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority

Distinguished Visitors Michael Marsh and Jeff Pinkerton



Oranjestad – An informal ceremony at the Aruba Tourism Authority headquarters in Oranjestad honored Michael Marsh and Jeff Pinkerton as Distinguished Visitors.

Michael & Jeff, both from Holland, Ohio, have been coming to the island for the past 12 years, always around Thanksgiving week, and staying each year at a different

hotel property. While in Aruba they enjoy driving around the island and discovering new beaches, restaurant, bars and friends, feeling more and more like locals everywhere they go.

This year, Lulu, a three and a half pound Yorkie joined them on their Aruba adventure. She has a different Aruba tee-shirt for every day of the week, Michael explains.

Blue sky and blue waters are Michael and Jeff's two top reasons for returning to the island, blue diamonds too, and Marisela, Aruba's favorite singer which they follow Wednesdays to the South Beach Lounge and Fridays to Garufa Ultra Lounge.



Keep coming back, says Ricardo Croes, the Aruba Tourism Authority official, we will name you Goodwill Ambassador in just eight more years; we thank you for your

loyalty to Aruba and its people and we are grateful for all your visits and the excellent promotion of the island in Ohio, your home state! □

Workshop held for Aruba Wine & Dine kitchen staff



ORANJESTAD - On Thursday, November 25 a workshop was organized in Chino Latino for the kitchen staff of Aruba Wine and Dine. The workshop was given by

Werner Zuurman from the Netherlands and there were 14 interested participants. Werner is owner of a well-known Mediterranean restaurant (www.caracol.nl) and is experienced with lots of different cooking technics. Werner showed the cooks the preparation of 'Arroz de Marisco' which is traditional rice dish with house made bouillon and fresh food from the sea, especially sea fruit. Lots of very tasteful spices were combined to get an optimal sensational taste.

The workshop was given because the Portuguese influenced dish is perfect to prepare with lots of different sorts of fish, where Aruba is famous for. During the workshop the participants were able to taste the dish in combination with two different wines and they asked some good questions. After the workshop some cooks stayed and discussed about our beautiful work field. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:

\$360 - 1/2 day

\$720- full day

Rates per boat

Max. 6 people



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad

Tel: (297) 583 2515

www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.

Saturday, November 27, 2010
Renewing vows at the Occidental Grand

Kenneth & Amy renew 7 years of marriage



PALM BEACH – Kenneth and Amy Dutcher of Monahann, Texas decided to renew 7 years of marriage at the Occidental Grand Resort on November 22, 2010. Witnessed by their daughter Telly and son Zach, the couple repeated their vows of love, marriage and forever with Rev. Robert Gibson at the waters edge just as the sun gently set into



the Caribbean Sea. The Dutcher's culminated their ceremony on the beach with a champagne toast and a romantic dinner on the beach.

The intimate ceremony was coordinated by Kimberley Ras-Dammerman, the Wedding Coordinator of the Occidental Grand Resort. Congratulations to Kenneth and Amy from Aruba Today. ☐

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Aruba TODAY

KEEP ARUBA CLEAN

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

The Coconut Trading Co. hosts a Client Appreciation party



Palm Beach – The Coconut Trading Co. at the Village Mall on Palm Beach hosted a fun Client Appreciation evening, inviting local patrons for a preview of the wonderful seasonal gifts and the store's enchanting holiday décor, over elegant cocktails and hors d'oeuvres .

The Coconut Trading Co., created by Salamander Holdings NV, donates a percentage of all sales under its Tikkun Olam program to Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad, a local not-for-profit foundation.

Tikkun Olam, or the repair of the world, an ancient Kabala concept was initiated by Salamander Holdings NV in 2007 at T.H. Palm & Company, Playa Linda Beach Resort, and extended last year to also include Coconut Trading Co. The store has raised in excess of Awg 7,000 to date, benefitting the local community.

The Coconut Trading Co. displays gifts personally selected by owner Jodi Tobman, a Boston native and longtime Aruba resident. The gorgeous space is stocked with extraordinary treasures handcrafted by skilled artisans and colorfully displayed, gifts designed to please family members and friends, and everyone else on your list.

Popular with repeat visitors and locals, The Coconut Trading



Co. has become the premier stop for the perfect gift, with great prices and convenient nighttime shopping hours. Shipping is also available for larger pieces, offered with a drop ship program at a nominal fee. All local shoppers will be offered a raffle coupon which entitles them to participate in a drawing for a shopping spree, held on January 2nd, during a live radio broadcast.

The Coconut Trading Co., located at the Village Mall on Palm Beach, opens daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, and the Coconut Trading Co. at the Marriott Ocean Club lobby, opens daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays until 7 p.m. □

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Tuesday \$10 Buy-in

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Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations only - Present coupon upon boarding.

DEFIANT NKOREA

Continued from Front Page

A dispatch Friday from Chinese state media saying Beijing's foreign minister had met the North Korean ambassador appeared to be an effort to trumpet China's role as a responsible actor and placate the U.S. and the South.

The North sees the U.S.-South Korean drills scheduled to start Sunday as a major military provocation. Pyongyang unleashed its anger over the planned exercises in a dispatch earlier Friday.

"The situation on the Korean peninsula is inching closer to the brink of war," the report by the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

A North Korean official boasted that Pyongyang's military "precisely aimed and hit the enemy artillery base" as punishment for South Korean military drills — a reference to Tuesday's attack — and warned of another "shower of dreadful fire," KCNA reported.

China expressed worry over any war games in waters within its exclusive economic zone, though the statement on the Foreign Ministry website didn't mention the drills starting Sunday. That zone extends 230 miles (370 kilometers) from China's coast and includes areas south of Yeonpyeong cited for possible maneuvers, although the exact location

of the drills is not known.

North Korea does not recognize the maritime border drawn by the U.N. in 1953, and considers the waters around Yeonpyeong Island its territory.

Yeonpyeong Island, home to South Korean military bases as well as a civilian population of about 1,300 people, lies only seven miles (11 kilometers) from North Korean shores.

The U.S. commander in South Korea, Gen. Walter Sharp, said during a visit to the island that Tuesday's attack was a clear violation of the armistice signed at the end of the three-year Korean War.

"We at United Nations Command will investigate this completely and call on North Korea to stop any future attacks," he said.

Washington keeps more than 28,000 troops in South Korea to protect its ally — a sore point for North Korea, which cites the U.S. presence as the main reason behind its drive to build nuclear weapons.

Dressed in a heavy camouflage jacket, army fatigues and a black beret, Sharp carefully stepped down a devastated street strewn with debris and broken glass. Around him were charred bicycles and shattered bottles of soju, Korean rice liquor.

On Friday, Associated Press photographers at an observation point on the northwest side



of Yeonpyeong heard explosions and saw at least one flash of light on the North Korean mainland.

There were no immediate reports of damage. Only a few dozen residents remain on Yeonpyeong, with most of its population fleeing in the hours and days after the attack as authorities urged them to evacuate.

Many houses were burned out, half-collapsed or flattened, and the streets were littered with shattered windows, bent metal and other charred wreckage. Several stray dogs barked as they sat near destroyed houses. South Korean marines carrying M-16 rifles patrolled along a seawall at dawn.

About 200 South Koreans held a rally Friday in Seoul to denounce the government's response to the attack as too weak. Similar recriminations have come

from opposition lawmakers and even members of Lee's own party, leading to the resignation of Defense Minister Kim Tae-young on Thursday.

There also has been intense criticism that Yeonpyeong was unprepared for the attack and that the return fire came too slowly. Lee named former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Kim Kwan-jin to the post, the president's office said Friday.

While there is some shock at the extent of the damage the North Koreans were able to inflict, most South Koreans want the threat to be contained, not aggravated, and the government response has been muted and cautious, following an initial angry threat from Lee.

The president, dressed in a black suit, visited a military hospital in Seongnam near

Seoul on Friday to pay his respects to the two marines killed in the North Korean attack.

Lee laid a white chrysanthemum, a traditional symbol of grief, on an altar, burned incense and bowed before framed photos of the two young men. Consoling sobbing family members, he vowed to build a stronger defense. "I will make sure that this precious sacrifice will lay the foundation for the strong security of the Republic of Korea," he wrote in a condolence book, according to his office.

South Korea assured a meeting of the European Olympic Committees on Friday that it would be able to ensure security at the 2018 Winter Games if it's picked. The Pyeongchang 2018 bid committee presented its case Friday in Belgrade. □

South American leaders urged to strengthen ties

By BERT WILKINSON

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Members of a fledgling South American defense union should stop seeking solutions from the United States and instead turn to their own leaders for answers, Ecuador's president said Friday. President Rafael Correa spoke at the opening of a one-day summit of the Union of South American Nations, or UNASUR, which drew presidents including Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Argentina's Cristina Fernandez and Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Correa said the region has looked to Washington for help for decades.

"We need to rescue our own thoughts at this time," he said. "We have to think for ourselves."

Silva called UNASUR a global player whose members have cooperated with each other and survived an economic crisis that is still affecting some Western nations. He said that Brazil, which is soon expected to be the



From left: Paraguay's President Fernando Lugo, Ecuador's President Rafael Correa, Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo and Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez gesture while posing for the official photo of the IV Summit of the Union of South American Nations, UNASUR, in Georgetown, Guyana, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010.

Associated Press

world's fifth-largest economy, no longer has to listen to "some third-rate" official telling the country what to do. "We have more sovereignty and determination than we

had 10 years ago," he said. UNASUR has strengthened its involvement in defense and health issues, but it needs to create an arbitration council to resolve differences between

countries, Correa said. "There's still a lot that needs to be done," he said. Correa also asked that UNASUR create a commission to investigate the events that led to a Sept. 30 police revolt in Ecuador in which about a dozen people died and 270 were wounded. The uprising was led by police upset over a new law that would deny them promotion bonuses. During Friday's summit, leaders also approved a democratic charter that will serve as a guide for the 12-nation bloc if any of them faced an attempted coup. The charter would have been an effective tool during Ecuador's revolt, Correa said. "If they (the rebels) had succeeded, they would have been ostracized immediately," he said. On Thursday, 12 foreign ministers approved the charter, which calls for economic sanctions and expulsion from UNASUR if a nation violated the charter, said Ricardo Patino, Ecuador's foreign minister. The Organization of American States passed a similar democratic charter in 2001, but Correa said UNASUR's version differs by imposing sanctions.

"(It) has complete measures, no rhetoric," he said. "I think that is the greatest difference." During Friday's session, Correa and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos announced that their governments had re-established diplomatic relations, with Santos saying a Colombian embassy would open in Ecuador before Christmas. Relations broke off after Colombia's military attacked a Colombian rebel base on Ecuadorean territory. Santos also shook hands with Chavez, with Silva saying he could never have imagined such friendly relations five months ago.

Ties between the South American neighbors were tense under Santos' predecessor, Alvaro Uribe. Uribe accused Chavez of helping Colombian rebels, while Chavez alleged that Uribe and the U.S. conspired against his government.

Before Correa's opening speech, UNASUR officials honored the Argentine president's late husband, former President Nestor Kirchner, who died last month. He was UNASUR's first secretary general. A replacement has not been named.

Fernandez praised her husband's role in leading the bloc and said he created a system that helped South America weather the global economic crisis.

"This would not have happened had Latin America not taken the position that it could achieve its own degree of autonomy," she said.

During her speech, Fernandez also thanked Chavez for "helping Argentina when no one else did."

On Friday, UNASUR's presidency passed from Ecuador to Guyana.

UNASUR was created in May 2008 to serve as a continental parliament that Chavez has described as a counterweight to the United States. Some members of the OAS see UNASUR as a complement to the Washington-based organization, while others view it as a potential replacement. □

Kenya wildlife agents kill two elephant poachers

TOM ODULA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The Kenya Wildlife Service said its agents have shot dead two suspected poachers who they saw shooting at a herd of elephants in one of the country's famous national parks.

This brings the number of poachers shot dead by agents of the wildlife service to five, the most killed in a month, spokesman Paul Udoto said Friday.

He said rangers gunned down the two suspected poachers and recovered one firearm on Thursday at the Amboseli National Park, a key sanctuary for animals in southwestern Kenya.

Udoto said three others escaped with injuries. The gang is suspected of involvement in the killing of two elephants in the same area three weeks ago. Poachers target elephants for their ivory tusks, which are often smuggled to Asia. "We want to make poaching a high-risk and low-benefit business," Udoto said. "Anybody who engages in poaching or trafficking of (wildlife) trophies will have a very difficult life and including losing their lives."

Udoto said rangers shot the poachers as a self-defense measure.

"We are encountering incidents that put our rangers in great risk," he said. "And in such incidents, self-preservation takes precedence." He said the wildlife service would rather capture suspected poachers and charge them in court, where they can gather information that can lead to other participants in the ivory trade. Two weeks ago KWS rangers killed a suspected poacher who was found cutting off tusks from a dead elephant at Meru National Park in central Kenya. Days earlier rangers shot and killed two suspected bandits in Tsavo National Park in eastern Kenya after they engaged rangers in a shoot-out after they were found with pieces of ivory from four elephants.

Wildlife officials said elephant poaching has risen sevenfold in Kenya since a one-time ivory sale was approved in 2007 by CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, for four African countries. Last year 271 Kenyan elephants were killed by poachers, compared with 37 in 2007 according to the KWS. □

U.S. briefs allies about next WikiLeaks release



In this Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010 file picture founder of the WikiLeaks website, Julian Assange, speaks during a press conference in London. A Swedish prosecutor has asked for a court order to detain WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for questioning on suspicions of rape, sexual molestation and unlawful coercion.

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.S. allies around the world have been briefed by American diplomats about an expected release of classified U.S. files by the WikiLeaks website that is likely to cause international embarrassment and could damage some nations' relations with the United States. The release of hundreds of thousands of State Department cables

is expected this weekend, although WikiLeaks has not been specific about the timing. The cables are thought to include private, candid assessments of foreign leaders and governments and could erode trust in the U.S. as a diplomatic partner. In Britain, Prime Minister David Cameron's spokesman, Steve Field, said Friday that the government had been told of "the likely content of these leaks" by U.S. Ambassador

Louis Susman. Field declined to say what Britain had been warned to expect. "I don't want to speculate about precisely what is going to be leaked before it is leaked," Field said. In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said U.S. diplomats were continuing the process of warning governments around the world about what might be in the documents. Many fear the cables will embarrass the United States and its allies,

Associated Press

and reveal sensitive details of how the U.S. conducts relations with other countries.

"We are all bracing for what may be coming and condemn WikiLeaks for the release of classified material," he said. "It will place lives and interests at risk. It is irresponsible."

The Obama administration on Friday warned that the WikiLeaks release would endanger "lives and interests." Italy's foreign minister, Franco Frattini, said he spoke Friday with the U.S. State Department, which told him that there would be documents regarding Italy in the leak, "but the content can't be anticipated."

"We're talking about thousands and thousands of classified documents that the U.S. will not comment on, as is their custom," Frattini said.

The governments of Canada and Norway also said they had been briefed by U.S. officials. Israel's Foreign Ministry declined to comment on a report that it, too, had been informed. In Iraq, U.S. Ambassador James F. Jeffrey told reporters that the leaks represent a serious obstacle to international diplomacy.

"We are worried about additional documents coming out," he said. "WikiLeaks are an absolutely awful

impediment to my business, which is to be able to have discussions in confidence with people. I do not understand the motivation for releasing these documents. They will not help, they will simply hurt our ability to do our work here."

In Norway, U.S. officials released a statement from the ambassador to the newspaper Dagbladet with the understanding that it would not be published until after the WikiLeaks material came out, but the newspaper published the material ahead of time.

It quoted U.S. Ambassador to Norway Barry White saying that, while he could not vouch for the authenticity of the documents, he expected them to contain U.S. officials' candid assessments of political leaders and political movements in other countries. He said diplomats had to be able to have private, honest discussions to do their jobs.

The Obama administration said earlier this week that it had alerted Congress and begun notifying foreign governments that the whistle-blowing website is preparing to release a huge cache of diplomatic cables whose publication could give a behind-the-scenes look at American diplomacy around the world. □



Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou talks to the media outside the hospital where Lien Sheng-wen, the son of former Taiwanese Vice President Lien Chan, is being treated for gun shot wounds to his face, in Taipei, Taiwan, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010. A gunman opened fire on a campaign rally on the eve of key local elections in Taiwan on Friday, killing one man and critically wounding the son of a former vice president.

Associated Press

Son of former Taiwan VP shot at election rally

PETER ENAV

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwanese voters flocked to the polls for local elections Saturday, hours after a gunman opened fire on a campaign rally in a gritty Taipei suburb, killing one man and critically wounding the son of a former vice president.

A suspect is in custody and may belong to a criminal gang.

Police said Lien Sheng-wen, son of former Vice President Lien Chan, and another man, surnamed Huang, were hit when the assailant rushed the stage at an elementary school in Yung Ho, on the outskirts of the capital. A candidate for city council was apparently the intended target of the attack.

Hospital officials said that though he was shot in the face and temple, Lien Sheng-wen's life was not in danger. Huang, however, succumbed to his wounds.

Acts of violence are unusual in election campaigns in Taiwan, which began a gradual transition from one-party dictatorship to fully functioning democracy in the late 1980s. Violence carried out by Taiwan's gangs is also limited, though the gangs themselves exercise considerable political influence, particularly on Taiwanese county governments.

Former Vice President Lien Chan and his 40-year-old son are both members of the ruling Nationalist Party, which will meet the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party in elections Saturday that could have a significant impact on government policy of improving relations with China.

Taiwanese will elect mayors and local officials in five large cities around the island. Lien Sheng-wen was speaking on behalf of a candidate for city council — the apparent target of the crime, according

to Taiwan's National Policy Agency chief Wang Cho-chiun. Police have given no motive for the attack.

A police official from Yung Ho, who asked not to be identified, said the suspect had 48 bullets in his possession when he was taken into custody.

Taiwanese TV stations reported that the suspect is nicknamed "horse face," a sobriquet that would likely indicate his membership in one of Taiwan's criminal gangs.

After the attack, Ma rushed to Taipei's National Taiwan University Hospital, where Lien was being treated.

"Taiwan is a democracy," Ma told reporters there. "We will not tolerate such violence."

Hospital spokeswoman Tan Ching-ting said Lien was conscious when he was brought to the facility just before 9 p.m.

"His wounds are in his left part of his face and his right temple," she said. "He is now in surgery." □

More than 1 in 3 S.African men admit to rape: study

NASTASYA TAY

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

A new survey says more than one in three South African men admit to having committed rape.

A 2010 study led by the government-funded Medical Research Foundation says that in Gauteng province, home to South Africa's most populous city of Johannesburg, more than 37 percent of men said they had raped a woman. Nearly 7 percent of the 487 men surveyed said they had participated in a gang rape.

More than 51 percent of the 511 women interviewed said they'd experienced violence from men, and 78 percent of men said they'd committed violence against women.

A quarter of the women interviewed said they'd been raped, but the study says only one in 25 rapes are reported to police.

A survey by the same

organization in 2008 found that 28 percent of men in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces said they had raped a woman or girl. Of the men who had committed rape, one third did not feel guilty, said Rachel Jewkes, a lead researcher on both studies.

Two-thirds of the men surveyed in that study said they raped because of a sense of sexual entitlement. Other popular motivating factors included a desire to punish women who rejected or angered them, and raping out of boredom, Jewkes said.

"Rape is completely trivialized by a great number of men. It is seen as a legitimate activity," she said.

Jewkes believes South Africa's history of racial division and associated trauma is part of the reason of the high incidence of sexual violence in the country. "Apartheid has contributed to culture of impunity surrounding rape in South

Africa," said Jewkes. Men who were abused or experienced trauma during their childhood are much more likely to rape, she said, adding that apartheid destroyed family life, fostering violence and anti-social behavior.

The apartheid period also saw very little enforcement of common law, which has contributed to a culture of impunity, said Jewkes.

"We need to start interventions in childhood, focusing on building a more empowering childhood environment in South Africa, especially for boys," she said, "and we need to make it worth their while for women to report sexual violence."

The new study, conducted with a gender rights advocacy body, is the first community-based study of its kind with women in 12 years.

The group hopes to replicate the study across southern Africa. □



Congo's former vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba, left, is seen in the courtroom of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, Nov. 22, 2010. The trial of Bemba, 48, on charges of rape, murder and pillaging is only the third to get under way at the International Criminal Court since it began work in 2002. Bemba has not yet entered pleas to three counts of war crimes and two crimes against humanity covering murder, rape and pillaging by his forces. Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo said Bemba's case will set a precedent for the conduct of war everywhere.

Associated Press



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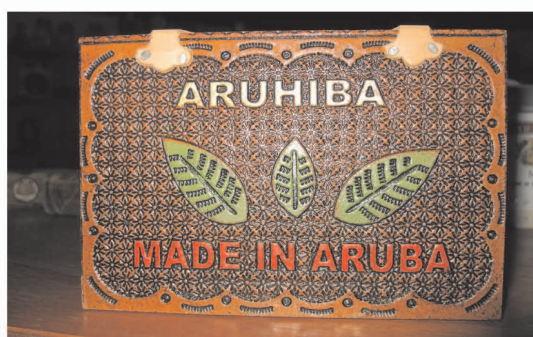
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Auburn's Cameron Newton (2) throws in the second half of an NCAA college football game against Alabama at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Friday, Nov. 26, 2010.

Associated Press

Newton leads No. 2 Auburn to improbable 28-27 win

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP College Football Writer
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Cam Newton ran around Bryant-Denny Stadium with a hand over his mouth, having hushed up those who might have thought his shot at the national title was done, along with the Heisman Trophy.

He's very much on track for both, thanks to his most audacious performance yet in this season of triumph and controversy.

No one had ever rallied a team to victory over Alabama after trailing by 24 points. That's just what Newton did Friday, leading No. 2 Auburn to a stunning 28-27 triumph that kept the Tigers in the thick of the BCS championship race and might have swayed any Heisman voters who had their doubts about voting for a guy hounded by unsavory allegations.

Newton threw for three touchdowns against the ninth-ranked Crimson Tide. He ran for the other score.

Continued on Page B6

BEDEVILED



New York Islanders goalie Rick DiPietro (39) raises his hands in the air to celebrate the Islanders 2-0 defeat of the New Jersey Devils as Devils center David Clarkson (23) watches from behind in an NHL hockey game, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010, in Uniondale, N.Y.

Associated Press

Page B3

Conn streak reaches 82 with win over Howard



Connecticut's Maya Moore pulls in a rebound as Howard's Portia Deterville, left, and Jerelle Gorham, right, defend in the first half of an NCAA women's college basketball game at Storrs, Conn., Friday, Nov. 26, 2010. No. 1 UConn defeated Howard 86-25. Connecticut set the women's record for consecutive victories with its 82nd in a row.

Associated Press

By PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Connecticut set the NCAA women's basketball record for consecutive victories with its 82nd in a row, a 86-25 win over Howard on Friday night.

Maya Moore scored 20 points to help top-ranked UConn break its tie with Washington University in St. Louis, a Division III school, which won 81 straight between Feb. 20, 1998-Jan. 12, 2001.

UConn's last loss came in the national semifinals in 2008 to Stanford. The Huskies stand six wins short of matching the 88-straight victories set in the early 70s by the UCLA men's basketball team.

This was the first of three games in three days for UConn, which is hosting the World Vision Classic. UConn (4-0) will take on Lehigh on Saturday, and hosts LSU on Sunday. The Tigers beat Lehigh 74-63 in the first game Friday.

Freshmen Bria Hartley (16 points) and Stefanie Dolson (13 points) had their best games as Huskies.

Jerelle Gorham led Howard (2-4) with six points on two early 3-pointers.

Moore, who played just 22 minutes for UConn (4-0), moved within 77 points of the school's all-time scoring mark set by Tina Charles last season.

Connecticut opened a quick 9-0 lead, but Howard battled early and trailed just 12-8

6 1/2 minutes into the game.

That would be as close as the Bison would get.

UConn scored the next 12, eight coming from Hartley and the Huskies went on a 29-3 run that made it 41-11.

UConn led 52-16 at the half, and held Howard to just 20 percent shooting from the floor.

A 3-pointer from Moore capped an 11-0 run that began the second half and UConn cruised home. A Hartley 3-pointer put UConn up 52 at 70-18.

Hartley hit five of her first six shots from the field and Howard had no answer for Dolson, who seemed to post up for layups at will. Hartley and Moore each had 13 points at the half, and Dolson had 11.

Dolson and backup center Heather Buck had just 14 points combined coming into the game. Buck had eight on Friday.

Fresh off consecutive 39-0 seasons, the Huskies are now a 4-0 start that includes a 65-64 win over No. 2 Baylor. But most of the wins haven't been nearly that close. The Huskies came in with a 32-point average margin of victory during the streak.

UConn has now won 139 consecutive games against unranked opponents, and 239 against unranked opponents at home.

This was the 31st game during the streak in which the Huskies had more points at halftime (52) than their opponent had during the entire game. □

F1 boss Ecclestone attacked outside London office



Bernie Ecclestone, president and CEO of Formula One Management looks on in the paddock of the Yas Marina racetrack, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010. The Emirates Formula One Grand Prix will take place on Sunday.

Associated Press

STUART CONDIE,

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone suffered a minor head injury when he was attacked outside his London office this week and robbed of jewelry worth 200,000 pounds (\$314,000).

The 80-year-old Ecclestone was treated in a hospital after being punched and kicked by four men after arriving at the Knightsbridge offices of Formula One Holdings on Wednesday night, London Police said Friday.

Ecclestone was released after treatment.

Police are investigating the incident but have made no arrests. Police said Ecclestone was accompanied by a woman, identified in British media reports as his Brazilian girlfriend Fabiana Flosi, at the time of the attack at around 10:30 p.m.

Earlier this month, Ecclestone complained there were not enough police officers on the streets of London.

"Normally like in America or anywhere you go, there are people getting mugged," Ecclestone said. "In London, it's a funny thing you know.

It's surprising in Oxford Street the number of people that get mugged there hourly.

"We should have more police there."

Knightsbridge is on the other side of Hyde Park from Oxford Street.

Ecclestone made the comments in response to an attempted attack on Formula One driver Jenson Button in Sao Paulo ahead of the Brazilian Grand Prix, suggesting that robbers only go after people who look vulnerable.

"They look for victims, they look for anyone that looks like a soft touch and not too bright," Ecclestone said. "The people that look a bit soft and simple, they will always have a go at."

Button's driver had to swerve out of a traffic jam to dodge an attempted robbery by heavily-armed gunmen approaching the armored car. □

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DiPietro helps Islanders to 2-0 win over Devils

The Associated Press

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Rick DiPietro stopped all 29 shots he faced and the New York Islanders ended a 14-game winless streak with a 2-0 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Friday.

NHL Roundup Jesse Joensuu and Rob Schremp scored for the Islanders, 1-11-3 in their last 15 games since Oct 21. The loss ended New Jersey's two-game winning streak.

The win was the first for Islanders coach Jack Capuano since taking over for the fired Scott Gordon last week. Capuano had been coaching the Islanders' AHL affiliate in Bridgeport, and went 0-2-2 in his first four games after taking over the NHL franchise.

The Islanders also avoided the dubious distinction of matching the club record of 15 games without a win, set from Nov. 22-Dec. 23, 1999. That stretch also featured three ties.

Penguins 2, Senators 1

At Pittsburgh, Marc-Andre Fleury made 43 saves, and Alex Goligoski scored the winner for Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh and Fleury are 7-0-1 with a 1.60 goals-against average in their past eight.

Evgeni Malkin also scored, and Sidney Crosby assisted on the play to extend his points streak to 11 games.

Jesse Winchester scored for Ottawa.

At Anaheim, California, Patrick Sharp scored for the fourth time in five games to give Chicago the lead for good, Duncan Keith had a short-handed goal and Nicklas Hjalmarsson ended a 44-game goal drought.

Troy Brouwer capped a three-goal third period and Corey Crawford made 26 saves for the defending Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks. Dan Sexton scored on a power play for the Ducks, who have just 10 goals during a six-game losing streak that began Nov. 14 at Chicago with a 3-2 overtime defeat. Hurricanes 3, Bruins 0

At Boston, Tuomo Ruutu had a power-play goal, set up another, and Cam Ward stopped 37 shots for his first shutout of the season for Carolina. Jeff Skinner and Jussi Jokinen also had power-play goals.

Boston goalie Tim Thomas dropped to 11-2-1, with both losses shutouts at home.

Flames 3, Flyers 2, SO

At Philadelphia, Niklas Hagman and Rene Bourque scored shootout goals



New York Islanders goalie Rick DiPietro (39) dives to knock the puck away from New Jersey Devils center David Clarkson (23) as Islanders defenseman Dylan Reese (42) guards from behind during the third period of an NHL hockey game Friday, Nov. 26, 2010, in Uniondale, N.Y. The Islanders shut out the Devils 2-0.

Associated Press

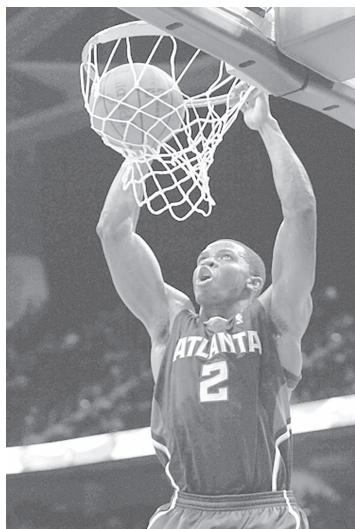
for Calgary.

Curtis Glencross had a short-handed goal, and Steve Staios also scored in regulation for the Flames. James van Riemsdyk and Nikolay Zherdev scored for Philadelphia.

Wild 5, Predators 2

At St. Paul, Minnesota, Martin Havlat scored twice, Marek Zidlicky, Andrew Brunette and Nick Schultz added goals, and Jose Theodore made 32 saves for Minnesota.

Steve Sullivan and Martin Erat scored for Nashville. □



Atlanta Hawks guard Joe Johnson dunks against the Washington Wizards during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game at Philips Arena, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010, in Atlanta. Johnson lead the hawks with 21 points for the night as the won 116-96

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

Johnson leads Hawks over Wizards

ATLANTA (AP) — Joe Johnson scored 21 points and Josh Smith added 20 points and 14 rebounds as the Atlanta Hawks beat the Washington Wizards 116-96 in the NBA on Thursday.

Al Horford finished with 15 points and 13 boards for the Hawks, who ended a three-game losing streak.

Gilbert Arenas scored 21 and Nick Young added 20 for the Wizards, who have yet to beat a team with a winning record this season and are still seeking their first road victory.

Washington rookie John Wall, the NBA's No. 1 overall draft pick, finished with 10 points. He missed

his first seven shots from the field and failed to score until his runner made it 69-50 midway through the third quarter.

Clippers 100, Kings 82

In Los Angeles, Eric Gordon scored 28 points and rookie Blake Griffin had 25 points and 15 rebounds as the Clippers topped the Sacramento Kings.

Center Chris Kaman missed his eighth straight game because of a sprained left ankle and point guard Baron Davis was sidelined for the 12th time in 13 games because of a swollen left knee. But the Clippers, coming off a 99-95 victory over New Orleans on Monday

that broke a nine-game losing streak, posted consecutive wins for the first time since a three-game stretch last February.

Carl Landry scored 18 points for Sacramento, which has lost nine of their last 10 games after a 3-1 start. □



Do-It-All Smith leads Jets past Bengals 26-10

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Brad Smith's left shoe popped off and he just kept running.

There was no way the New York Jets' Mr. Do-It-All was going to slow down. Not with a clear path to the end zone ahead.

"I was running and trying to stick my shoe back on," Smith said with a big grin, "but after a while, I just said, 'Forget it.'"

Who needs two anyway, right?

Smith's one-shoed, 89-yard kickoff return sparked New York to a 26-10 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals on Thursday night that sent the Jets to the second-best start in team history. The versatile wide receiver, a converted college quarterback, also had a 53-yard touchdown run.

"He's a phenomenal athlete," coach Rex Ryan said. "Everything we ask him to do, he does."

With or without all of his footwear.



New York Jets wide receiver Brad Smith (16) loses his left shoe as he runs away from Cincinnati Bengals kicker Aaron Pettrey on an 89 yard kick return for a touchdown during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010, at New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The Jets won the game 26-10.

"I think all that running in the backyard with no shoes on with my brother," Smith said, "that helped."

Hours after New England beat Detroit to improve to 9-2, New York matched the Patriots with its fourth straight victory to set up a meaty

Monday night matchup Dec. 6 in Foxborough, Mass., for first place in the AFC East.

"The NFL couldn't have scripted it better," Jets safety Jim Leonhard said.

New York's impressive start is eclipsed only by the 1986 squad that won 10 of its first 11. And the Jets did it by overcoming a sluggish first half and sending the struggling Bengals (2-9) to their eighth straight loss.

"We're trying to make the most of it," Bengals receiver Terrell Owens said. "It's something different in every phase of the game every week. We find ways to put ourselves in the hole. I'm out of answers."

It looked as though New York was headed for yet another frenzied finish. The Jets had consecutive road overtime victories followed by a nail-biter Sunday, when they scored the winning touchdown with 10 seconds left against Houston.

But it took New York only two plays to go ahead after halftime in this one. Mark Sanchez hit Santonio Holmes for 16 yards, then Smith used superb blocks by Dustin Keller and D'Brickashaw Ferguson to speed down the left sideline untouched for a 53-yard TD run.

"I would've felt sick if I didn't score because of how well it was executed," Smith said.

The Jets' defense followed

Associated Press with a three-and-out, but Sanchez gave the ball back on an interception by Rey Maualuga.

"A terrible decision," Sanchez said. "I should have sailed that into the stands and hit Fireman Ed."

Maualuga's 11-yard return to the Jets 37 put the Bengals in good shape, and they were aided by a 15-yard roughing-the-passer call against James Ihdigbo on fourth down.

Faced with another fourth down moments later, Cincinnati sent Aaron Pettrey out for a tying 27-yard field goal, but he was wide left.

Ihdigbo made up for his penalty on the Jets' next drive when Steve Weatherford punted and officials ruled the ball hit Cincinnati's Andre Caldwell. Ihdigbo recovered at the 14. Bengals coach Marvin Lewis surprisingly did not challenge the play.

"Three guys upstairs told me upstairs he touched the ball," Lewis said.

After a 1-yard run by Shonn Greene, Sanchez found Holmes — his favorite target lately with four touchdowns in the last three games — in the end zone for a 17-7 lead.

"I should be doing backflips in here and celebrating," Sanchez said. "But as a competitor I know we should have won this going away. We didn't because of the poor play of the quarterback."

Pettrey kicked a 28-yard field goal to make it a seven-point game with 12:33 remaining.

Smith took the ensuing kickoff, got a few big blocks and made a nice cutback before losing his shoe midway through the return.

"You want to be a catalyst when you're on the field," Smith said. "That's what it's really about that when you're down a little bit, just being able to be a spark."

Smith had three carries for 55 yards, a catch for 23 yards and the long kickoff return, accounting for 200 all-purpose yards.

"We call him 'Slash,'" Ihdigbo said. "The guy can do anything he's asked to do." About the only thing he didn't do was throw a pass.

"I know," Smith said, smiling. "Now that would've been sweet."

Trevor Pryce sacked Carson Palmer in the end zone for a safety, making it 26-10 with 6:52 left. No overtime needed this time for the Jets, and no tense closing moments.

"At halftime, we talked about it," running back LaDainian Tomlinson said. "And we said, 'Guys, let's stop messing around.'" New York has beaten Cincinnati three times in less than a year, including the regular-season finale that got the Jets into the playoffs, then in the wild-card game the following week.

It was another disappointing loss for the Bengals, who lost to Buffalo on Sunday in a game they led 31-14. They were outscored 35-0 in the second half.

"We're just not winning games," Palmer said, "and that's as frustrating as it gets in this league."

Palmer was 17 of 38 for 135 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions, while Sanchez was 16 for 28 for 166 yards with the score and an interception.

The anticipated matchup between Cincinnati's dynamic receiving duo of Owens and Chad Ochocinco and New York's shutdown cornerbacks Darrelle Revis and Antonio Cromartie finished decidedly in the Jets' favor. □

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Detroit Tigers, Victor Martinez make it official

By NOAH TRISTER

AP Sports Writer

As Victor Martinez tried to decide where to play next season, one of his countrymen contacted him about the possibility of teaming up in Detroit.

Now Martinez and Miguel Cabrera will form a powerful duo in the middle of the lineup for the Tigers. Detroit introduced Martinez on Friday after completing a four-year contract with the 31-year-old switch-hitter. The Tigers' top priority this offseason was to add another big bat, so Cabrera helped recruit his fellow Venezuelan.

"He did make a few phone calls, and I expressed to him the desire that I wanted to make it happen," Martinez said on a conference call. "It is a great organization." Detroit had reached a preliminary agreement with Martinez on a \$50 million, four-year contract.

Martinez hit .302 with 20 home runs and 79 RBIs in 127 games with Boston last season.

He started 106 games at catcher, but that number may be cut in half now that he's with the Tigers, who want him to be their designated hitter while occasionally filling in behind the plate. Alex Avila is still expected to be the team's No. 1 catcher.

"We expect Victor to be in our lineup on a daily basis, serving primarily as our club's designated hitter and catching two to three times a week," general manager Dave Dombrowski said. "He also has the ability to fill in at first base and his versatility allows us to keep a premier bat in our lineup every day."

Detroit already re-signed third baseman Brandon Inge and shortstop Jhonny Peralta this offseason, and the Tigers added reliever

Joaquin Benoit last week. They were looking for another offensive threat to go along with Cabrera, the slugging first baseman who hit .328 with 38 home runs in 2010 and finished second to Josh Hamilton in the AL MVP vote.

Even with Cabrera's production, the Tigers finished only eighth in the American League in runs and went 81-81. They were hurt by injuries to Inge, Magglio Ordonez and Carlos Guillen.

"Once Magglio went down, we didn't have another offensive force in the middle of our lineup," Dombrowski said.

Ordenez is recovering from right ankle surgery and played only 84 games. The Tigers did not exercise his \$15 million option, so he's a free agent. Dombrowski had left open the possibility of Ordonez returning to the Tigers, but he wouldn't



This Sept. 25, 2010, file photo shows Boston Red Sox batter Victor Martinez following through on a home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

comment Friday on whether there was still a chance of that.

Detroit finished 13 games behind AL Central-winning Minnesota. The Tigers were unable to capitalize on an impressive season by center fielder Austin Jackson, who finished second in the Rookie of the Year race. With a rotation anchored by Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer, the Tigers were clearly hoping for an immediate return to contention, and Dombrowski wasted no time identifying players he wanted to keep or add.

Martinez was signed by the Indians as a 17-year-old shortstop, then developed into an All-Star. He played in Cleveland from 2002 until he was traded to the Red Sox during the 2009 season.

Martinez was limited to 73 games in 2008 because of an elbow injury, but he bounced back to hit 23 homers in 155 games with Cleveland and Boston the following year.

"I used to play against the Tigers a lot," Martinez said. "I can just see the way these guys are trying to improve the team every year." □

Dodgers and RHP Garland agree to \$5M, 1-year deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers completed their starting rotation for 2011 by agreeing to a deal with right-hander Jon Garland(notes).

The \$5 million, one-year contract includes a club option and could be worth \$16 million over two seasons.

Garland joins Clayton Kershaw(notes), Chad Billingsley(notes), Hiroki Kuroda(notes) and Ted Lilly(notes) to give Los Angeles one of the deepest sets of starters in the major leagues.

The right-hander went 14-12 with a 3.47 ERA in 200 innings for the San Diego Padres in 2010. He is 131-114 with a 4.32 ERA in his 11-season career.

"I can't recall having five that would have the ability to make 30-plus starts and throw as many innings as they do," general manager Ned Colletti said on a conference call Friday night. "I felt we needed to shore up our pitching as best we could and to do it with five starters."

In 2009, Garland played for Arizona and Los Angeles and went 11-12 with a 4.01 ERA. He was acquired by Los Angeles on Aug. 31 for infielder Tony Abreu(notes) and went 3-2

with a 2.72 ERA in six starts for the Dodgers. "I think it's a great ballpark for my style of pitching and I think I have a lot to offer to that team," Garland said on the same conference call.

The 31-year-old can make \$3 million in performance bonuses next year. Los Angeles has an \$8 million team option for 2012 that could become guaranteed depending on his 2011 performance.

He hinted that he might have passed up some multiyear offers to rejoin the Dodgers, saying "if there were (any such deals possible), they weren't the greatest."

Garland has pitched at least 190 innings every season since 2002, his first full year as a starter. "A lot of teams are worried how I'm going to hold up after stacking 2,000 innings," Garland said.

Colletti viewed Garland's experience and consistency as a positive—he's had double-digit win totals in every season since 2002.

"He's always won his fare share of games throughout the course of the season," Colletti said. "As we said, we set out to improve our rotation, and I think adding Jon kind of caps it off in a good way." □

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Alabama quarterback Greg McElroy (12) sacked by Auburn defensive back T'Sharvarn Bell (22) during the second half of an NCAA college football game on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2010, in Tuscaloosa, Ala. McElroy was injured on the play.

Associated Press

NO. 2 AUBURN
Continued from Page B1

And a day that started like Auburn might be headed for a staggering blowout ended with No. 2 taking a victory lap around Alabama's hallowed home field.

"Cameron Newton is physically and mentally as tough as I've ever seen," Auburn coach Gene Chizik said. "Period."

When Auburn fell behind 24-0 in the first half, it looked as though all those turned off by the prospect of Newton hoisting the Heisman and national championship trophies after his father was accused of seeking a huge payout might not have to worry about it.

Both awards, it seemed, were slipping away.

Not so fast.

Newton again rallied a team that has trailed in eight of its 12 games, leaving the crowd of 101,821 in disbelief. Well, except those orange-clad faithful crammed into one end of the stadium amid all the crimson, celebrating a win no one could have seen coming just a couple of hours earlier: the biggest comeback in school history.

Newton had a 1-yard TD run and threw scoring passes of 36 yards to Emory Blake, 70 yards to Terrell Zachery and, finally, a 7-yarder to Philip Lutzenkirchen with 11:55 remaining that gave Auburn its first lead of the day.

It held up, keeping the Tigers perfect heading to next week's Southeastern Conference championship game against South Carolina. If Auburn wins that one, the reward will certainly be a berth in the national title game.

"That's the kind of team we have," Zachery said. "We never give up."

Auburn (12-0, 8-0 SEC) trailed 21-0 before it even picked up a first down, and Alabama (9-3, 5-3) had a 314-2 lead in total yards when things looked especially grim

for the Tigers.

Newton's day started with a rendition of "Take The Money And Run," blaring over the loudspeakers during pregame warmups, and he got off to a very shaky start along with the entire team.

Rattled? No way.

Love him or deride him as a tainted star, Newton certainly has no peer on the field. It's unlikely that anyone in the country could lead a team back from such a daunting deficit in Tuscaloosa, where Alabama had won 20 in a row. Then again, the Tigers have come back time and time again this season, overcoming double-figure deficits three other times. This was their best one yet, their best one ever.

"That was a game that will certainly go down in history," Chizik said. "It's hard to come back when you're down 24-0 against anybody."

Newton didn't do much on the ground, rushing for 39 yards and taking plenty of big hits, including four sacks. But he's no slouch with his arm, either. He completed 13 of 20 for 216 yards, including a gutsy fourth-down throw to Darvin Adams that kept the winning drive alive near midfield. Newton, who hasn't spoken to the media in 2 1/2 weeks, kept up his no-comment policy after the game. He even ran around the field with that hand over his mouth, but it was more of a gleeful gesture to show how he silenced all those Alabama fans. He clearly was hiding a big smile.

The momentous comeback wouldn't have been possible without some help from the Tide. Last year's Heisman winner, Mark Ingram, fumbled the ball away at the end of a long run just when it looked like Alabama was about to blow the Tigers all the way back to the Plains.

Another fumble, this one coughed up by quarterback Greg McElroy after a big hit by Nick Fairley — and recovered by Fairley — cost the Tide another scoring chance deep in Auburn territory near the end of the first half.

McElroy threw for a career-high 377 yards, but he wasn't able to finish. He left with a concussion after being body-slammed to the turf on a

vicious sack by T'Sharvarn Bell in the closing minutes.

"We didn't finish the game," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "When you play good teams, you've got to play for 60 minutes. Those kind of teams don't go away. There's a lot of lessons to be learned out there about finishing games and doing things correctly."

Alabama still led 24-7 going to the locker room, but yet another miscue probably hurt the Tide most of all. On Auburn's second play of the second half, Newton threw a deep pass for Zachery down the sideline. Alabama safety Mark Barron came racing over and appeared to have a chance either at the interception or a big hit on the receiver.

He got neither. Barron actually got to the receiver a little early and slid by him. Zachery came down with the ball and kept on going for the touchdown that cut the deficit to 24-14.

The comeback was on. The Tigers never slowed down.

"Words can't describe it," Lutzenkirchen said.

Alabama started out like a team that deserved a shot at defending its title, even with two losses.

The Tide scored on its first three possessions, carving up Auburn with McElroy's pinpoint passes. He completed his first 12 throws, including a 68-yard touchdown to Julio Jones and a 12-yard scoring toss to Darius Hanks. Ingram started things off with a 9-yard TD run, and it looked as though Ingram might make it 28-0 when he caught a short pass and broke loose down the sideline. But Ingram was tripped up, began to stumble and, while trying to keep his balance, had the ball punched out from behind by Antoine Carter at the 19. The ball rolled all the way to the back of the Auburn end zone, where Demond Washington fell on it for a touchback.

Alabama then drove to first-and-goal at the Auburn 3, but settled for a field goal after Trent Richardson dropped a sure TD pass.

Jeremy Shelley kicked another field goal in the second half after Auburn fumbled a punt — then it was time for the Cam Newton Show.

No matter what, he figured to be the center of attention. □



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Nadal, Djokovic win to reach semis at ATP Finals

CAROLINE CHEESE

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic completed the semifinal lineup at the ATP World Tour Finals with straight-set wins on Friday.

The top-ranked Nadal beat Tomas Berdych 7-6 (3), 6-1 in the early match to leave Djokovic needing only one set to finish second in Group A and the third-seeded Serb defeated a listless Andy Roddick 6-2, 6-3.

Nadal will meet Andy Murray in Saturday's opening semifinal as he bids for his first title at the end-of-season tournament. Djokovic plays Roger Federer.

Roddick began his match against Djokovic with an outside chance of reaching the semifinals but the eighth-ranked American was never in contention and was broken three times in a 65-minute loss. Nadal, meanwhile, finished Group A with a perfect 3-0 record and appears finally to be getting to grips with the surface at the O2 Arena, having lost all three matches on the same court last year.

"(To) finish the season winning all the matches in the group, three victories against top-eight players in probably the most difficult surface for me, is unbelievable now," Nadal said after beating Berdych for the eighth straight time. "I'm very happy how I am playing, how I improved during the tournament."

It wasn't all plain sailing for Nadal, who lost his cool momentarily and argued furiously with the officials in the first set.

With Nadal trailing 6-5, Berdych's backhand was called out by Brazilian umpire Carlos Bernardes, but Nadal had returned the ball in play. Berdych challenged the call, which confirmed the ball was actually in. The Czech player was then awarded the point.

Nadal was convinced the point should have been replayed, and ranted first at Bernardes and then at the tournament supervisor sitting in the front row of the crowd, to no avail. "There is no argument," Nadal said. "I am right, but it's (a)

mistake for him. But he is a great umpire and everybody (makes) a mistake."

Berdych said he thought Nadal had already stopped playing to indicate the ball was out, and that the umpire was correct to give him the point.

"The referee is probably scared of him and just let him to talk with him too long," Berdych said. "He was able to play. But every time when you just raise your hand, that means that you stop the play." The rare outburst only seemed to fire Nadal up. He eventually returned to the baseline to serve at 15-30, and when a fierce forehand drew an error from Berdych, he pumped his fist and yelled his approval.

"Doesn't change nothing, that point," Nadal said. "I think I still playing the same level before that point and after that point." After dominating the tiebreaker, Nadal raced through the second set, leaving Berdych with a familiar sinking feeling. The 25-year-old Czech has now lost 19 straight sets to Nadal, including this year's Wimbledon final.

Serving for the win at 5-1, Nadal even had the confidence to try a through-the-legs winner, and although that dropped millimeters wide, he still finished with 27 winners to Berdych's 18.

Roddick, who had qualified for the eight-man tournament for the eighth straight year, leaves London with an 0-3 record after a surprisingly lackluster performance on Friday.

The 28-year-old American had won his last four matches against Djokovic and engineered a break point in the opening game, only to put a backhand into the net.

Roddick failed to threaten again. A forehand into the net handed Djokovic his first break of the set at 2-1, and Roddick went on to rack up 22 unforced errors as his season ended with a whimper.

"Feel I've been struggling physically on and off for a while now," Roddick said. "I am looking forward to resting for 10 days and then trying to get in shape. It probably came to an end at about the right

time."

Djokovic, who has admitted that leading Serbia in the Davis Cup final against France in December is his priority, is within sight of his second title at the season-ending tournament.

"It's definitely important to me to win every match here," he said. "That's what I have showed on the court. So I'm still in the tournament, and I really want to go all the way if I play well. Then, I'll think about Davis Cup."

In doubles, Lukasz Kubot and Olivier Marach beat Daniel Nestor and Nenad Zimonjic for their first win in the group, but the Polish-Austrian pair were already eliminated while No. 2-ranked Nestor and Zimonjic were already through to the semifinals. □



Spain's Rafael Nadal disputes a call made by umpire Carlos Bernardes, as he plays Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during a men's singles round robin match at the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament at the O2 Arena, in London, Friday, Nov., 26 2010.

Associated Press



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Play it again! Italy-U.S. meet again for World Cup spot

By NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer

There was a time not too long ago when the U.S. women could roll over opponents even when the Americans were far from at their best.

Those times are clearly gone.

Stunned in regional qualifying, the top-ranked Americans are scrambling for a spot at next year's Women's World Cup — a tournament they've won twice. After beating Italy last weekend in the first leg of a home-and-home playoff, the Americans can advance with a win or a draw in Saturday's finale at Toyota Park.

"I think what we're going through is a lot of months of soccer. It's not so much physical fatigue as it is mental," captain Christie Rampone said Friday. "We're not stressing, we're not panicking too much. What we're focused on right now is we're not playing the best soccer (so) let's just get the job done. If we qualify ... then we'll worry about fixing the things here and there come January."

The Americans are not exactly a dying dynasty. Their loss to Mexico



In this photo taken Monday, Nov. 22, 2010, US Women's soccer team goalie Nicole Barnhart reaches for the ball during soccer practice in Bridgeview, Ill. The last time the U.S. women's soccer team lost a game, they regrouped and won the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics. They're hoping a setback in regional qualifying last month will produce a similar result at next summer's Women's World Cup, provided they get there. The women's team will face Italy Saturday in the crucial second leg of the two-game series that will determine the final berth to the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Associated Press

in the CONCACAF semifinals was their first since the opening game of the Beijing Olympics — where they went on to win the gold medal — and only their second since the 2007 World Cup. They've conceded 26 goals in 61 games under coach Pia Sundhage and have outscored opponents 47-6

this year alone.

But the United States is no longer the juggernaut it was in the 1990s, when Mia Hamm inspired millions of girls all over the world to lace up their cleats.

"All the nations in Europe, the world, have improved," Italy coach Pietro Ghedin said. "The big gap, it's a little bit smaller. But it is still a gap."

Much like Michael Jordan's championship Chicago Bulls or the New York Yankees in the late '90s, Hamm and her teammates were a sublimely gifted group that would stand out in any generation. Hamm. Michelle Akers. Joy Fawcett. Tiffeny Milbrett. Kristine Lilly — the entire lineup was overwhelming. But no team can sustain that kind of dominance, and the U.S. team is no different. As that golden generation of players was retiring, other countries were pumping more money into their

women's programs. Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Costa Rica, all have put more money and effort into improving their women's teams, and the results are beginning to show.

"The best time to get a sense of that is when you lose," Abby Wambach said. "We were getting a sense of it in '04 and '07, but winning kind of blinds you in some ways, especially if you're so used to it."

After getting over the upset to Mexico, the Americans are relishing their new challenge.

It's similar to when they lost to Norway in the opener of the Olympic tournament, midfielder Carli Lloyd said. By being forced to refocus, the Americans might just become a better team.

"It's all in the mind, and you have to change your mindset," Lloyd said. "That's the most important thing: We can't dwell on the one loss. It happened.

But we've bounced back from it and we're digging deep and we're showing everyone why the U.S. has the history of being the No. 1 team in the world. We find a way to win."

Ghedin doesn't doubt it.

It would be "very difficult" to face the United States at any time, Ghedin said, but Italy's job is made even tougher by the loss of forward Melania Gabbiadini, who will be sidelined again with a twisted ankle. Gabbiadini, who had six goals during European qualifying, missed last weekend's game with the ankle injury. She returned to training this week, but Ghedin said it's "impossible" for her to play.

"It's a big problem for us," Ghedin said. "It's very important for us, and she cannot play. I tried to recover her, but it's not possible."

Italy still has Patrizia Panico, who scored 10 goals during European qualifying. The Azzurre went undefeated in winning their qualifying group only to lose to France in the playoffs to determine Europe's first four qualifiers. (Germany automatically qualified as host.) It then beat Ukraine and Switzerland to earn the spot in the playoff against the U.S.

But the United States has won nine of its last 11 games against Italy and is 21-1-2 against European teams under Sundhage.

"We're going out there to win," Lloyd said. "We've got the same game plan we had the first game. We're going to go at them, we're going to create chances and we're going to get the win. We've just got to all be on the same page, work hard and get the job done together." □

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Knowing how HIV is transmitted is one way of protecting yourself. Hurting someone's feelings will not protect you.

Acts of human kindness towards persons living with HIV or AIDS could make a big difference in their lives.

Japan iPhone craze attracts global app developers

By YURI KAGEYAMA,
AP Business Writer

TOKYO — The iPhone's popularity in Japan is cracking open an industry long thought inaccessible to outsiders.

For years, the typical Japanese cell phone — built to operate on a network hardly used anywhere else in the world — has been stuffed with quirky games and other applications that cater to finicky local tastes.

That helps explain why Japan's mobile phone industry earned the nickname "Galapagos" — drawing parallels to the exotic animals that evolved on the isolated islands off South America — and why cell phones are called "galakei," which combines "keitai," the Japanese word for cell phone, with Galapagos.

Foreign developers of applications for phones didn't give the Japanese market a second thought because of its insularity. But that is changing

as the iPhone, for which tens of thousands of applications have been created, dominates Japanese smartphone sales.

Everywhere one turns, on commuter trains and urban cafes, people are tapping away at their iPhone screens in a relatively rare Japanese embrace of technology that isn't homegrown.

Azusa Furushima, a 22-year-old college student, who has an iPhone in a glittery Hello Kitty case, says she already has about 35 apps, including those for dieting and practicing typing.

American and other foreign developers for the iPhone now have eyes on this potentially lucrative market. And Japanese users, thanks to galakei culture that has long had services that charged small fees, such as "i-mode," are used to paying for their applications.

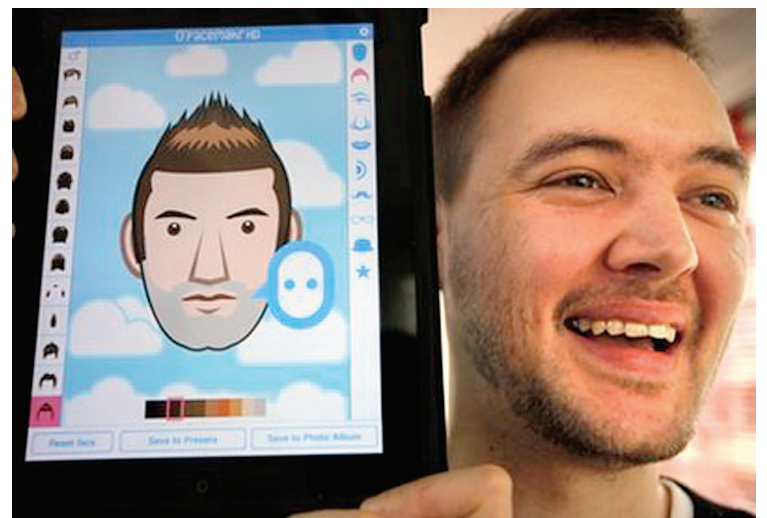
"Japanese are well-educated. They will pay for applications,"

said Brian Lee, a manager at Taiwan-based Penpower Inc., which sells an app for digitally organizing business cards. "A lot of developers are coming into this market."

Japanese developers, previously trapped into targeting galakei, in turn have a chance for a piece of the global iPhone pie, which topped 3 billion application downloads globally in less than 18 months, according to Apple. Apple takes 30 percent of the application sales, but the rest goes to developers.

Apple doesn't give iPhone sales breakdowns by country. But Japan makes up a significant chunk of the 70 million iPhones sold worldwide so far, including a record 14.1 million last quarter.

Smartphones, mostly iPhone models which top sales rankings, make up 16 percent of Japanese cell phone sales of 35 million a year, according



In this Oct. 19, 2010 photo, Dadako Studio Japan President Hawken King, a 32-year-old Briton, shows an avatar application he developed for iPhone users at his office in Tokyo, Japan. His 115 yen (\$1.40) 'Facemakr' allows people to easily and smoothly create avatars, or facial likenesses, on iPhone's touch panel, choosing images of noses, eyes and hairstyles.

(AP Photo/Itsuo Inouye)

Convictions upheld in Pirate Bay file-sharing case

By LOUISE NORDSTROM,
STOCKHOLM — A Swedish appeals court on Friday upheld the copyright convictions of three men behind The Pirate Bay, a popular file-sharing site that remains in operation despite attempts by authorities to shut it down. The Svea Appeals Court agreed with a lower court ruling that found Fredrik Neij, Peter Sunde and Carl Lundstrom guilty of helping users of the site to break Sweden's copyright law. However, the appeals court reduced their prison sentences from one year each to between four and 10 months and raised the amount they have to pay in damages to the entertainment industry to 46 million kronor (\$6.5 million). The lower court had set damages at 32 million kronor (\$4.5 million). A fourth man convicted by the lower court, Gottfrid Svartholm Warg, didn't appear in the appeals court hearings, citing illness. The Pirate Bay has been a thorn in the side of the entertainment industry for



Reporters rush to get hold of copies of the Pirate Bay verdict at Svea Appeals Court in Stockholm Friday Nov. 26, 2010. The Swedish appeals court has upheld the copyright convictions of three men behind file-sharing hub The Pirate Bay. The court agreed with a lower court ruling that found Fredrik Neij, Peter Sunde and Carl Lundstrom guilty of helping users of the site to break Sweden's copyright law.

(AP Photo/Jessica Gow)

years by helping millions of people illegally download music, movies and computer games. The defendants have denied any wrongdoing, saying the site doesn't actually host any copyright-protected material itself. Instead, it provides a forum for its users to download content through so-called torrent files. The

technology allows users to transfer parts of a large file from several different users, increasing download speeds. Neij's defense lawyer, Jonas Nilsson, said he wasn't surprised but disappointed by the appeals court ruling and said they would probably appeal to the Supreme Court. □

to Gfk Marketing Services Japan, which track such data. Finnish developer Rovio Mobile, behind the "Angry Birds" game, which has racked up 27 million global downloads in a year, introduced a Japanese-language version a month ago. The game, which features bubbly headed peevish birds that fight pig-like creatures, has been No. 1 in iPhone games in the U.S. and 70 other nations. Hopes are high to move up from No. 6 to No. 1 someday in Japan as well.

Erin Gleason, spokeswoman for Foursquare, a popular U.S. location-based mobile application, says the service, which has more than 4 million users worldwide, is arriving in Japan soon, although she said details won't be disclosed until early 2011.

"We will be focusing on internationalization in the next couple of quarters, and we feel that Japan is an important market for us," she said.

The growing sales of smartphones running the Android operating system from Google Inc. are expected to expand the application business even further, from not just Softbank Corp., the only carrier to offer the iPhone, to giant rivals NTT DoCoMo and KDDI Corp.

Japanese electronic maker Sharp Corp. is even bringing out Android mobile devices called Galapagos — in a tongue-in-cheek self-deprecation that underlines

the Japanese electronics maker's ambitions for global appeal.

Cashing in on the iPhone fad comes in all sizes.

Hawken King, a 32-year-old Briton, who founded a tiny venture in Tokyo called Dadako, which means "brat" in Japanese, is doing all right, selling his product to just 20,000 iPhone users around the world.

About half of them are American, but a third are Japanese.

His 350 yen "Facemakr" allows people to easily and smoothly create avatars, or facial likenesses, on iPhone's touch panel, choosing images of noses, eyes and hairstyles. It costs \$2.99 in the U.S.

Developers like King say the success of the iPhone has evened out the playing field, allowing for a diverse range of products, rather than a winner-take-all or carrier-controlled market, which in the past favored established companies over newcomers.

"We'll soon see a wave of outside prospectors flooding in for the gold in the hills of Omotesando and Harajuku," predicts Mark Hiratsuka, director of Snapp Media, an independent mobile application promoter, referring to the Tokyo areas equivalent of Silicon Valley.

"Right now, only the very smartest developers are aware of the potential here. We're about to see that bust wide open," he said. □



In this undated theater publicity image released by Aurora Productions, Denis O'Hare, left, and Brendan Fraser are shown in a scene from the Broadway production of 'Elling' in New York. (AP Photo/Aurora Productions, Joan Marcus)

T.R. Knight, Brendan Fraser bow out on Broadway

By MARK KENNEDY,
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK — T.R. Knight, Brendan Fraser, Patrick Stewart, David Hyde Pierce and Mark Rylance are among the high-profile actors whose Broadway season has ended rather abruptly.

Those are the early casualties after poor box-office results, weak reviews or a combination of both shortened the runs of the plays "Elling," "La Bete" and "A Life in the Theatre."

The fastest failure was "Elling," a play about two recently released mental patients in Norway that marked Fraser's Broadway debut. It opened last Sunday and had hoped to run until March, but will now close on Sunday after just 22 previews and nine regular performances.

Co-starring Tony Award-winner Denis O'Hare, who was largely praised for his performance, "Elling" was widely considered to be too intimate a play for a big Broadway theater. It made only about \$145,000 during eight performances last week, well short of its \$882,000 potential.

"What a world what a world," O'Hare tweeted after the Thanksgiving Day parade in New York. "Got to be on CBS for the parade and oh, they are shutting down the play. One door shut, another window opens."

The revival of "La Bete," starring Rylance, Joanna Lumley and Pierce, as well as David Mamet's "A Life in the Theatre," with Stewart and Knight, have also not done well financially this season on Broadway.

"Life" will close Sunday, well short of its original Jan. 2 intended end. The Neil Pepe-directed play, which focuses on the relationship between two thespians over the course of several dozen small scenes, was considered well acted but too light and insubstantial a work.

And "La Bete" will close Jan. 9 after struggling through about 100 regular performances, despite critical acclaim for Tony winner Rylance and his astonishing 20-minute soliloquy in Act 1. The revival will have lasted only a little longer than the 25 performances it played on Broadway when it first debuted in 1991.

The theaters for "La Bete" and "Life" were both less than half-filled last week. □

Author seeks to understand Israel in debut novel

By MATT MOORE,

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Sarah Glidden's first graphic novel — "How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less" — is not just her debut, but a travelogue with a decidedly personal bent that invokes a deft blend of history, skepticism and, ultimately, acceptance.

In the book, published by Vertigo — an imprint of DC Comics — Glidden details her birthright visit to Israel. Birthright visits are efforts by Israel to familiarize young Jewish adults with the Jewish state and maintain a strong connection to American Jewry. Visitors are shown the country and introduced to interesting Israelis from all walks of life, and some end up staying for a while, or even immigrating.

But instead of serving as a travel guide with personal insights, Glidden's novel is an exploration of how she viewed the country, before visiting, during and, ultimately, after her visit.

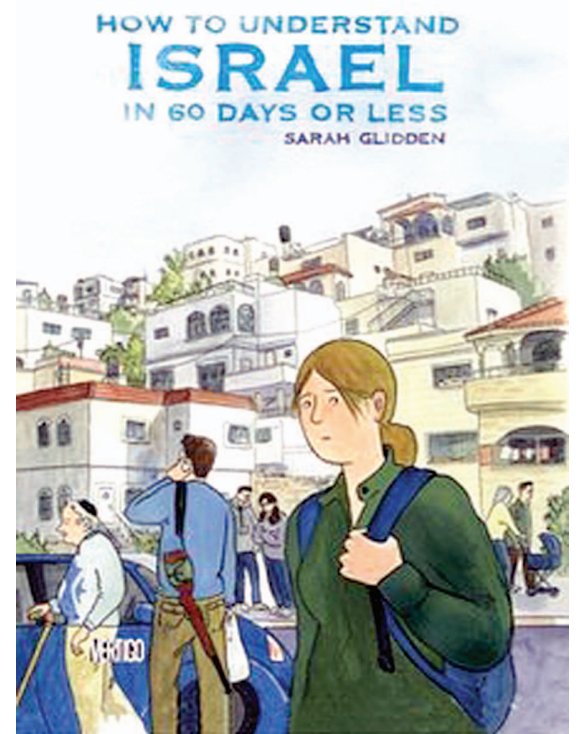
"I knew I wanted to do something that related to history or current events in some way because those things interest me. So one day I was having an argument with my mother about the political situation in Israel and she said, 'Why don't you go there before you decide that you know everything about it? What about a birthright trip?'" Glidden said in an e-mail to The Associated Press from Turkey where she is traveling.

"And that sparked the idea to go on a birthright tour and make some kind of comic about it. I think I signed up for the trip that same day and I was on a plane a few months later."

Before "60 Days," Glidden's work in comic books was just small, personal efforts aimed at practicing her craft and a way to experiment.

"After a while, I decided I wanted to try a larger project but I wasn't quite sure what that would be," she said, until the trip to Israel.

The visit proved fertile, informative and



In this graphic novel cover image released by Vertigo, 'How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less' by Sarah Glidden is shown. (AP Photo/Vertigo)

eye-opening. Throughout the graphic novel Glidden's artwork and dialogue explore Israel's founding, the political turbulence that hovers over the country with its relations with Palestinians and, to an extent, the world at large.

Ultimately, however, the 208-page book is about a person's journey of self-discovery.

"In a way, this book isn't really about Israel but a story of someone going from certainty to uncertainty.

It was important to show that this was my own subjective experience and not a book which is to explain Israel to the reader," Glidden said. "It's about me trying to explain it to myself." □

Black Eyed Peas to perform Super Bowl halftime

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Black Eyed Peas will be the featured halftime performer at the Super Bowl.

The Grammy award-winning group will perform Feb. 6 at Cowboys Stadium. The announcement was made Thursday during the Dallas Cowboys' game against the New Orleans Saints.

Since forming in 1995, The Black Eyed Peas have sold more than 28 million albums worldwide and nearly 31 million digital tracks. Their new album, "The Beginning," is set for release Tuesday.

Last year's featured performer was The Who.



FILE - In this June 11, 2009 file photo, The Black Eyed Peas, from left, Taboo, will.i.am, Fergie and Apl.de.ap are photographed in New York. The Black Eyed Peas will be the featured halftime performer at the Super Bowl, Feb. 6, 2011, at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

(AP Photo/Jim Cooper, File)

Other halftime acts have included U2, the Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, Paul McCartney and Prince. The Super Bowl halftime show is sponsored by Bridgestone.



Stocks slide on worries over Korea, European debt

By MATTHEW CRAFT
PALLAVI GOGOI,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks sank during Friday's shortened session as jittery traders were afraid to commit to any holdings ahead of the weekend amid lingering uncertainty surrounding Europe's debt troubles and North Korea's war threats.

European stock markets and the euro fell as worries mounted that Portugal will be the next country to need cash from other European Union countries, even as details of Ireland's bailout were being worked out.

On Friday, Portugal adopted a raft of debt-reducing austerity measures, which the government claimed would be enough to restore market confidence in its public finances without resorting to a bailout.

However, that didn't soothe traders who are also nervously eyeing North Korea's threat of war, which could destabilize

its neighboring Asian nations. North Korea warned Friday that plans by South Korea and the U.S. to stage military maneuvers have put the Korean peninsula on the brink of war. North Korea fired artillery shells at a South Korean island on Tuesday, killing four people.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 95.28, or 0.9 percent, to 11,092. The S&P 500 index was down 8.95, or 0.8 percent, to 1,189.40. The Nasdaq composite index fell 8.56, or 0.3 percent, to 2,534.56.

"Until there's final resolution of both Spain and Portugal investors will continue to be fearful," said John O'Donoghue, co-head of equities at Cowen & Co.

The 16-nation euro fell to \$1.3244 in midday trading Friday from \$1.3368 late Thursday, earlier dipping below \$1.32 for the first time since Sept. 21. The Euro Stoxx 50, which tracks the shares of blue chip companies

in countries that use the euro, slipped 0.7 percent.

Preliminary volume on the New York Stock Exchange of 428 million was about half of the usual volume as trading desks were thinly staffed on the day after Thanksgiving. Falling shares outpaced rising ones by two to one on the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stock markets closed at 1 p.m. EST Friday instead of the usual 4 p.m. Markets were closed on Thursday for the holiday.

Friday also marks the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season. Black Friday, a crucial event for retailers, was off to a strong start, according to early reports. Many stores pushed more exclusive deals online on Thursday in a bid to rope in shoppers before Black Friday. It apparently worked. According to IBM's Coremetrics, online sales soared 33 percent on the holiday compared with Thanksgiving 2009.

Sales during the Thanksgiving



FILE - In this Nov. 3, 2010 file photo, specialist Jennifer Klesaris works at her post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

weekend made up 12.3 percent of all holiday revenue last year, according to research firm ShopperTrak. Black Friday accounted for half of that.

Macy's Inc. shares were up 11 cents to \$26.

It was the end of a rollercoaster week. Stocks fell on Tuesday after North Korea's shelling, but surged on Wednesday after a batch of economic reports buoyed hopes that the U.S. economic recovery was

gaining strength. The reports showed that Americans' income rose and consumer spending climbed in October. And fewer people filed first-time claims for unemployment benefits last week.

Overall, stocks ended the week mixed. The Dow ended 112 points lower, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 10. However, the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index gained 17 points for the week. □



FILE - In this Feb. 17, 2006 file photo, Sean Redd, right, and Sharon Bordlee both from Kenner, La., play a craps game at Harrah's Casino in New Orleans. Amid a new reality — casinos are not recession-proof — gambling in Louisiana and Mississippi is staging a slow comeback from the economic meltdown of 2008, aggravated for a time by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill that chased away some tourists.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

By ALAN SAYRE,
AP Business Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Amid a new reality — casinos are not

recession-proof — gambling in Louisiana and Mississippi is staging a slow comeback from the economic meltdown

of 2008, aggravated for a time by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill that chased away some tourists.

But at least for the rest of 2010 and into 2011, industry analysts expect many players to keep a tight grip on their wallets amid uncertain economic times — and those who watch casinos are largely unwilling to predict when full recovery might come.

"Gamblers, like other people, have to feel comfortable about their financial situation," said Joseph Weinert, senior vice president of Linwood, N.J.-based Spectrum Gaming Group. "There had been the perception that the industry was largely recession-proof, but we saw what happened a couple of years ago. When the economy got tanked, the

industry got whacked."

For the first three quarters of 2010, revenue at Mississippi's state-licensed casinos totaled \$1.83 billion, down 12.9 percent from the first nine months of 2008 — the period leading into the U.S. economic freefall. Still, the decline has slowed. According to the Mississippi Department of Revenue, casino takes dropped only 3.3 percent from the first three quarters of 2009. In the latest count, the 11 casinos across the Mississippi Gulf Coast were down 12.7 percent from the first nine months of 2008, but recorded only a 1.3 percent drop from 2009, indicating that the oil spill had only a small effect on gambling. The 19 casinos on the Mississippi River, including Tunica in the

Arkansas-Tennessee corner, were down 12.8 percent from 2008 and 5 percent from last year.

In Louisiana, the 13 riverboat casinos, Harrah's downtown New Orleans casino and the four race track casinos, for the first three quarters of 2010, recorded a 7.7 percent drop in gambling revenue from the first nine months of 2008. The 2010 tally was down 5.3 percent from 2009.

"I'm reserved, but optimistically reserved. The numbers appear to be stabilizing," said Dane Morgan, chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board.

But sustained growth is a question mark, regionally and nationally. □

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Scientists May Have Solved an HIV Mystery

Scientists believe they've discovered how HIV triggers the death of the immune system's defensive CD4 T cells, which in turn leads to AIDS.

It was believed that most immune cells that die in people with HIV are not actually infected, a situation labeled "bystander cell killing." In the new study, the researchers found that these "bystander" cells die because of a failed or abortive HIV infection.

"Our study reveals that the virus actually enters CD4 T cells that are destined to die and that the virus starts to make a DNA copy of its RNA, a process called reverse transcription," lead author Gilad Doitsh at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology in San Francisco, said in an institute news release.

"However, this process

does not work well in the majority of these cells and the incomplete DNA intermediates that accumulate in the [cell's] cytoplasm are sensed and trigger the cells to commit suicide in an attempt to protect the body," he explained.

Doitsh and colleagues also found that the dying CD4 T cells release proteins called cytokines that cause inflammation and attract healthy immune cells, which prompts more infection and immune cell death.

"Our findings have revealed a completely unexpected mechanism for CD4 T-cell death during HIV infection," senior author and institute director Warner C. Greene said in the news release. "These results highlight how a natural cellular defense normally used by the host to repel foreign invaders goes awry in

What is HIV/AIDS?

HIV: human immunodeficiency virus
HIV found in blood, semen, vaginal secretions, breast milk

► Attacks the immune system by invading white blood cells known as CD4+ T cells

► Normal CD4+ T cell count at 800-1200/mm³

AIDS: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

► Final stage of HIV infection

► Occurs when CD4+ T cell count drops below about 200/mm³

Transmission

- Unprotected sex
- Shared drug syringes
- From mother to child
- Blood transfusions

Toll

- 2 million deaths a year, 25 million killed since discovery of disease in 1981
- 22.4 million infected in sub-Saharan Africa
- 33.3 million people living with HIV
- 2.7 million new infections a year

AFP Sources: CDC/WHO/UNAIDS

Fact file on HIV/AIDS. The number of new cases of HIV/AIDS has dropped by about one-fifth over the past decade but millions of people are still missing out on major progress in prevention and treatment, the UN has said.

HIV infection, resulting in a profound depletion of CD4 T cells. If untreated, this process ultimately causes AIDS."

The study was published Nov. 24 in the journal *Cell*. □



Dr. Funshine, aka Caroline Meeks, M.D. (C) leads a laughter therapy session with Wanda Boyce (L) and Richard Trask along with a group of seniors at the Clairmont Friendship Center in San Diego, California November 17, 2010.

By Sarah Tippit

SAN DIEGO – It's a Monday morning at the Live Well center in San Diego and a group of seniors are skipping, clapping and hooting in the recreation room.

That's precisely what Dr. Caroline Meeks, aka "Dr. Funshine" ordered. As part of her holistic practice, Meeks, a physician and author, visits

senior centers and hospitals aiming to treat chronic seriousness.

Her prescription: Frequent doses of "laughter yoga," -- an hour-long, mind-body exercise class that combines yogic breathing with simulated physical laughter and silly banter.

The exercises, combined with playfulness, singing, dancing

and eye contact, usually induce authentic cackling, which Meeks and others believe is good medicine for everybody from cancer patients to people with dementia and depression. "It's hard to laugh and worry at the same time, or be angry or be profoundly sad, or in pain at that moment. Laughter makes you shift toward ... feeling more connected, grateful, positive," said Meeks.

There is very little research into the connection between laughter and disease remission but some clinical studies have shown that it raises oxygen levels in the lungs, lowers blood pressure and reduces the stress hormone, cortisol. A study a decade ago at the University of Maryland showed that laughter relaxes arteries and boosts blood

vessel function, according to the website of Laughter Yoga founder Dr. Madan Kataria of India.

TAKING LAUGHTER SERIOUSLY

Since its introduction by Kataria and his yoga teacher wife Madhuri in Mumbai in 1995 it has proliferated. Today there are more than 6,000 laughter groups in 60 countries.

Meeks came to laughter yoga stressed out after working in pediatrics for two decades, followed by caring for elder relatives and writing the book "Prescriptions for Parenting." "I was so enchanted with how quickly it could create an emotional shift in my own body. It was like having a shot of tequila or falling in love

or having a great day at the amusement park or watching a funny movie.

"I was hooked and decided, as a physician, to bring more credibility to the laughter movement as something therapeutic for all people," Meeks said.

On a recent Monday, Meeks addressed a few dozen seniors. Dementia patient Thelma Howell, 89, stared blankly and a retired minister named Richard had hearing loss.

"I would scrub floors if I had to, to come here," said Wanda Boyce, 87, a professional clown. "Sometimes I think I can't make it, but when I leave here to go home, I'm high." Meeks began by introducing the minister, who she said has the loudest belly laugh of all. □

"Dr. Funshine" prescribes laughter yoga for seniors

Colorado weighs difficulties of pot regulations

By KRISTEN WYATT,
Associated Press

DENVER – What's in that joint, and how can you be sure it's safe?

Colorado is working toward becoming the first state to regulate production of medical marijuana. Regulators say pot consumers deserve to know what they're smoking, and producers should have safety regulations such as pesticide limits for plants destined for human consumption.

Right now, patients have no way to verify pot-shop claims that certain products are organic, or how potent a strain might be.

"You don't go into a Walgreens with a headache and put on a blindfold and pick something off a shelf. But that's what some people are doing when they buy marijuana," said Buckie Minor of Full Spectrum Laboratories in Denver, which currently does voluntary marijuana analysis for about 100 growers and dispensaries.

Minor and others in the pot business say industry standards are needed. But Colorado officials are having a tough time writing regulations for a product that's never been scrutinized or safety-tested before.

New Mexico requires marijuana products to be labeled by strain and potency, and is planning by the end of the year to allow health inspectors to review samples. But currently none of the 14 states that allow medical marijuana regulate how it's grown.

"There's no experience with this," said Dr. Alan Shackelford, a Denver physician heading up Colorado's effort to write labeling and safety regulations for medical marijuana.

Colorado hopes to have in place by early next year some sort of labeling and inspection standard for marijuana sold commercially, under provisions of a new state law. But it's a daunting task. Physicians, pot shop owners and state regulators all say standards are needed

but guidelines don't exist. Some of the questions:

_Should marijuana sellers be able to attach medical claims to their products? What if no research exists to back up a claim that a certain strain of pot is best for, say, pain or nausea?

_Should medical pot be labeled by potency? Patients using over-the-counter and prescription drugs can read the medicine's ingredients, but no analogy exists for pot's active ingredient, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC.

_What about chemicals, such as pesticides or fertilizers, used on marijuana plants? Should those be limited, as they are for food and tobacco?

_Agencies that routinely inspect farms, restaurants and pharmaceutical factories have no experience regulating pot. Can they be tapped to inspect marijuana grows?

_What happens if someone gets sick from medical marijuana? Should growing operations have guidelines to limit contamination, such as mildew and mold?

"Given the lack of USDA or other oversight of this agricultural industry, we're at square one," Shackelford said when introducing proposed regulations recently.

According to regulators and physicians on the committee to establish regulations under the new law, the recommendations are likely to include basic labeling requirements, including potency. The regulations are also likely to call for pot growers to submit random samples for state testing, and rules for labeling pot products "organic."

Shackelford says he'll borrow from federal tobacco regulations for limits on chemicals that can be used in material to be smoked or ingested.

The regulations will also



In this Friday, Nov. 19, 2010 picture, samples of marijuana are tested in an oven at Full Spectrum Laboratories in Denver. 'You don't go into a Walgreens with a headache and put on a blindfold and pick something off a shelf. But that's what some people are doing when they buy marijuana,' said Buckie Minor of Full Spectrum Laboratories, which currently does voluntary marijuana analysis for about 100 growers and dispensaries. Minor and others in the pot business say industry standards are needed. But Colorado officials are having a tough time writing regulations for a product that's never been scrutinized or safety-tested before.

(AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)

likely include the nation's first guidelines for the safe production of hashish, which is concentrated marijuana. Hash production can be a fire risk because it's often prepared using butane, and sometimes hash is made using plastics that can leave unsafe carcinogens as residue.

Matt Cook, who leads the Department of Revenue committee considering the new regulations, conceded that state regulators face a challenge overseeing the state pot supply.

"How do I enforce this?" Cook asked Shackelford when the doctor was talking about limiting pesticide use on the plants. "I just don't want to create something that creates a regulatory nightmare for all of us."

But the so-called "ganjapreneurs" working in the marijuana business say

that regulation and safety standards are needed. "Patients are definitely interested to get as much information as they can about what they're ingesting," Minor said. □

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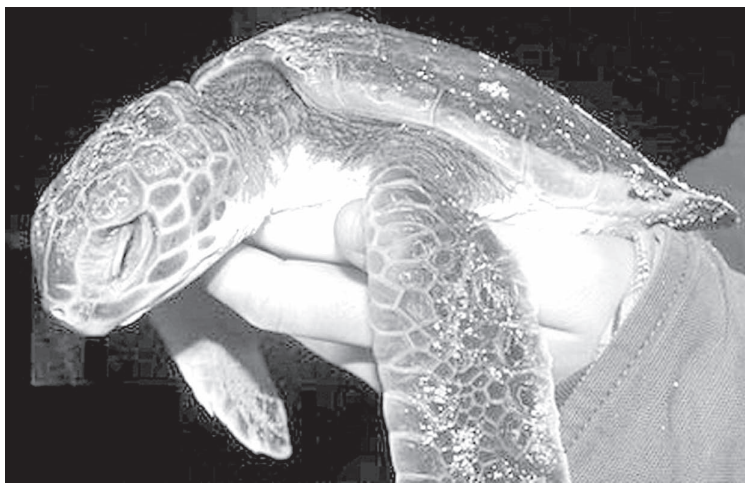
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This Nov. 25, 2010 photo, provided by Don Lewis and Sue Wieber Nourse, shows a small Green Sea Turtle, one of several warm-water sea turtles rescued on the beach at Brewster, Mass., on Cape Cod. Most were suffering from hypothermia, dehydration and malnourishment, and are being cared for at the New England Aquarium's animal care center in Quincy, Mass.

(AP Photo/Don Lewis)

17 rare sea turtles rescued off Cape Cod, Mass.

QUINCY, Mass. — Seventeen rare sea turtles suffering a variety of ailments are recovering at the New England Aquarium after being rescued over the past two days off of Cape Cod, Mass.

The turtles rescued by volunteers with the Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary at Wellfleet Bay are being cared for at the aquarium's new animal care center in Quincy. They eventually will be released back to the ocean.

Most of them are Kemp's ridley turtles and are suffering from hypothermia, dehydration and malnourishment. The turtles usually migrate to warmer waters in the winter, but aquarium officials say strong northwest winds Wednesday drove the turtles to shore.

Many had body temperatures in the 50s, when they should have been in the 70s.

An aquarium spokesman says it's unusual for the center to care for so many at one time. □

Critics say Obama lagging on endangered species

By MATTHEW DALY,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Environmental groups are criticizing the Obama administration for what they say is a continuing backlog of plants and animals in need of protection under the Endangered Species Act. The Fish and Wildlife Service says 251 species are candidates for endangered species protection, four more than a similar review last year found. Environmental groups say that shows the Obama administration has done little to improve on what they consider a dismal record on endangered species under President George W. Bush.

Nearly two years after taking office, Obama has provided Endangered Species Act protection to 51 plants and animals, an average of 25 a year. By comparison, the Clinton administration protected an average of 65 species per year, and the Bush administration listed about eight species a year. "Like the Bush administration, the Obama administration is failing to provide prompt protection to wildlife desperately in need of protection," including the plains bison, sage grouse and hundreds of other species, said Noah Greenwald, endangered species program director at the Center for



FILE - A female Oregon spotted frog from the Owyhee Mountains of Southwestern Idaho, rests in the hand of a researcher in this undated file photo taken in Idaho. Environmental groups are criticizing the Obama administration for what they say is a continuing backlog of plants and animals in need of protection under the Endangered Species Act. Many of the species listed as candidates for protection have been waiting for such a designation for decades, including the Oregon spotted frog, found in three West Coast states.

(AP Photo/Boise State University, Janice Engle, File)

Biological Diversity, an Arizona-based group that has filed lawsuits seeking greater protection for those and other species. Greenwald said Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has failed to correct a longtime "culture of delay and foot-dragging" at the Fish and Wildlife Service, which oversees the endangered species program. The agency has been without a permanent director since February, when former director Sam Hamilton died. All but one of the service's eight regional directors are holdovers from

the Bush administration. Tom Strickland, assistant Interior secretary for fish, wildlife and parks, acknowledged the growing backlog, but compared it to a list of schools that need repair. "We know what we need to do. We don't have the resources to do it all at once," he said. Many of the species listed as candidates for protection have been waiting for such a designation for decades, including the Oregon spotted frog, found in three West Coast states, and the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, found in nine Midwest and Great Lakes states. The frog has been a candidate for the endangered species list since 1991, the snake since 1982. Bob Irvin, senior vice president for conservation at Defenders of Wildlife, another environmental group, compared species on the waiting list to patients in a crowded emergency room. "Species on the candidate list continue to deteriorate while waiting for care," Irvin said. "The 251 species now under consideration for federal protection are glaring reminders that we can and should do more to safeguard our valuable natural resources." □

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Presidentes de Unasur firman plan respaldo al sistema democracia

GEORGETOWN (Reuters) -

Los presidentes de los países de la Unasur aprobaron el viernes un paquete de medidas para sancionar a las naciones de la región que rompan el orden democrático, en una cumbre que pasará a la historia por ser la primera sin disputas entre los miembros.

Los presidentes y jefes de estado de la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (Unasur) firmaron el viernes en la capital de Guyana un "protocolo democrático" que había sido acordado en la víspera por los cancilleres.

"Nosotros lo firmamos ya" dijo el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez a periodistas a la salida de una reunión. El líder aclaró



Los presidentes y jefes de estado de la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (Unasur) posan para la fotografía oficial de su cumbre en Georgetown, nov 26 2010 REUTERS/Jorge Silva

que el documento fue de consenso y que el único cambio realizado fue el de usar "protocolo" en lugar de "cláusula" que fue el que

utilizaron los cancilleres.

La norma establece sanciones diplomáticas, políticas y comerciales contra cualquier golpe de Estado o intento

de golpe de Estado, explicó el jueves el canciller ecuatoriano Ricardo Patiño. Las medidas de sanción incluyen la limitación del

comercio, cierre de fronteras terrestres y operaciones aéreas. El presidente de Ecuador, Rafael Correa, destacó la importante labor de Unasur y dijo que se diferencia de la ONU y la OEA porque hace cosas prácticas que van más allá de las declaraciones y sanciones en el papel que realizan otros organismos internacionales. La decisión del organismo es un apoyo claro a la democracia en Ecuador, que sufrió el 30 de septiembre una sublevación de policías en demanda de beneficios económicos, hecho que Quito califica como un intento de golpe de Estado que puso en peligro la democracia en el pequeño miembro de la OPEP. □

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